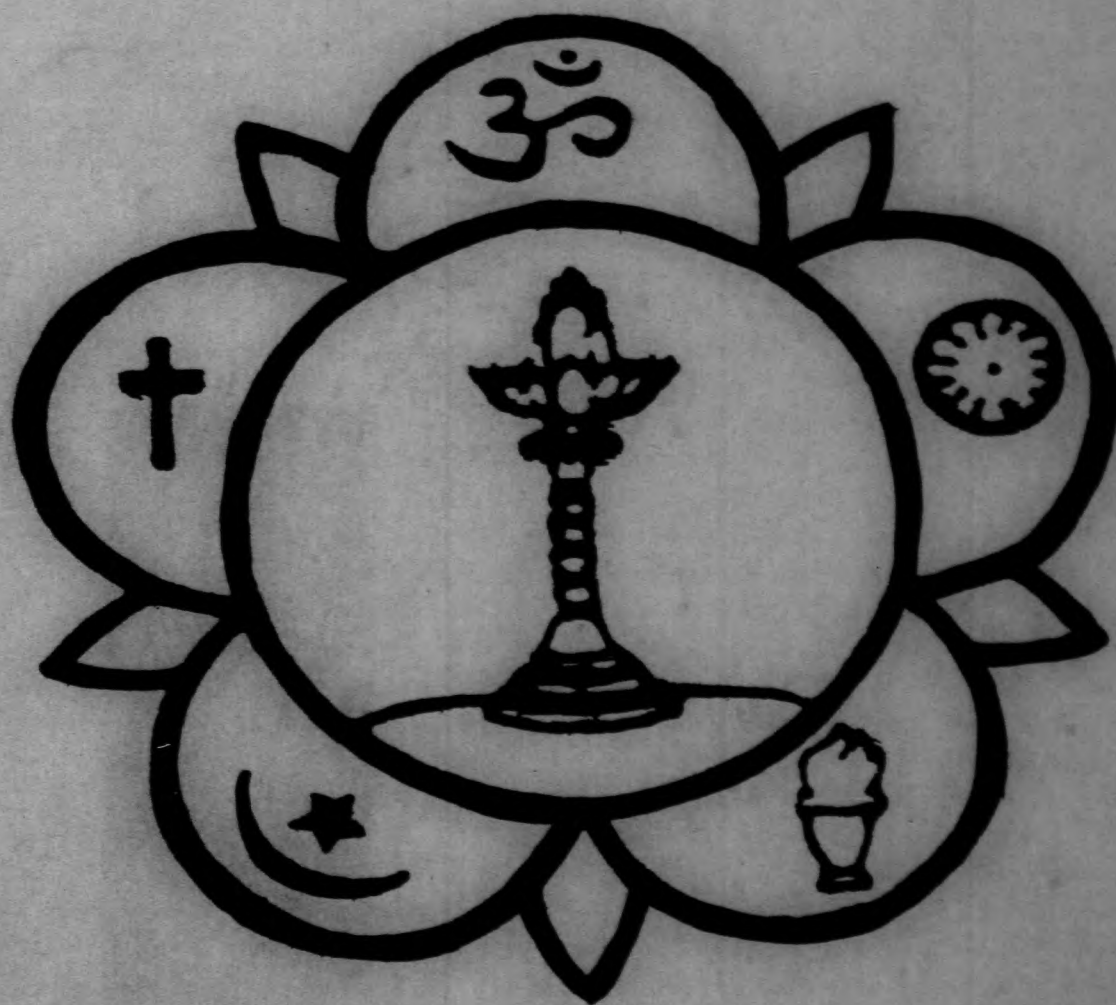


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SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER



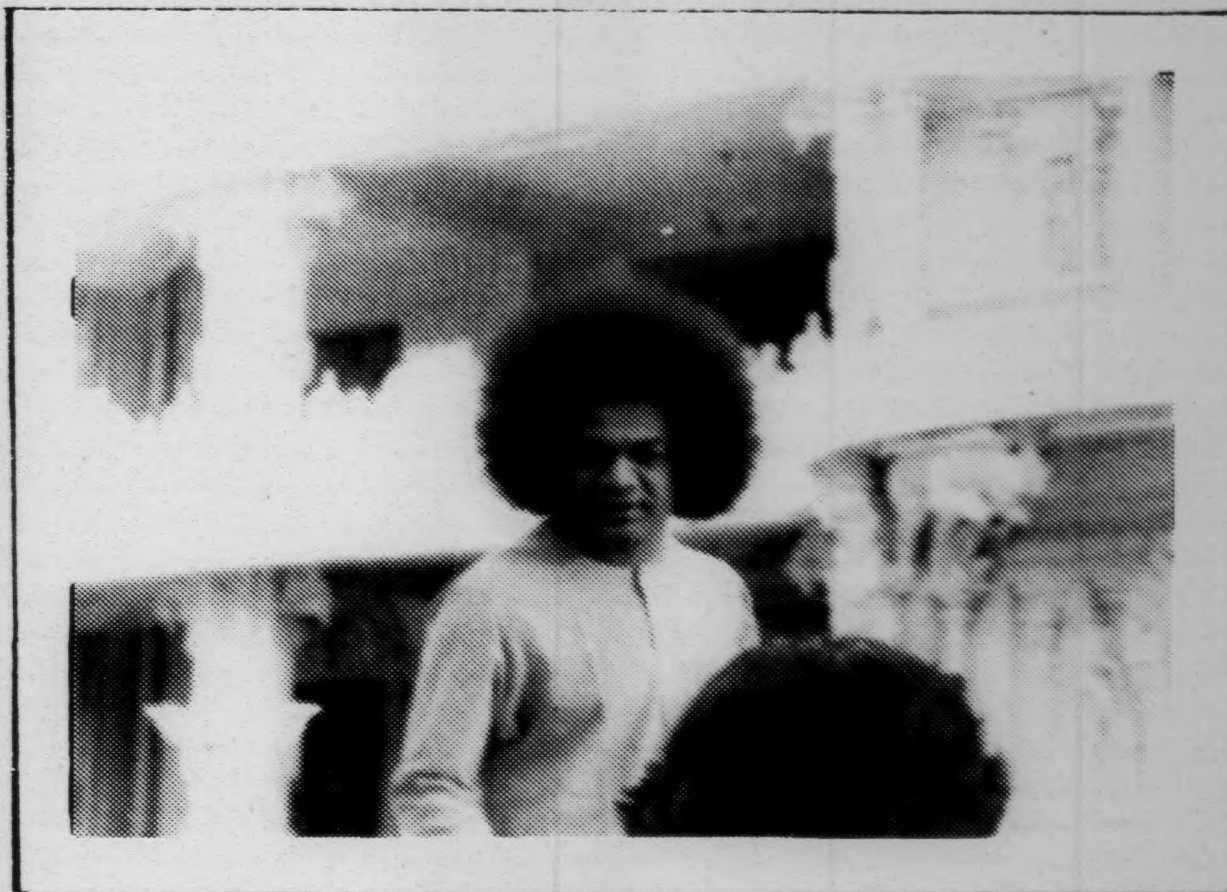
Winter 1979 - 1980

Vol. 4, No. 2

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This publication is dedicated with love and devotion to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.



QUOTATION ON SERVICE

Look about for chance to relieve, rescue or resuscitate. Train yourselves that you may render help quickly and well. Seva (service) is a most paying form of austerity, the most satisfying and the most pleasurable! It springs out of Love and it scatters love in profusion. It plants a seed on stone and is delighted to see it sprout! Plant it with Love, and the seed will discover Love inside the stone and draw sustenance therefrom.

It is the inner joy, the Love that you radiate that is important. Mere sentiment and sympathy are of no use; they must be regulated by intelligence. Shower cheer on the sad; soothe those that have lost the way; close your eye to the faults of others, but, keep them open to discover your own. All these are hard jobs. Practice alone can make you perfect--practice, not only in item of service, but, in meditation on the Divine. Japa and Dhyana will render you more and more efficient in the field of service.

--Baba

THE DIVINE ASSURANCE

B.V.S. Sagar

(Student at Sri Sathya Sai College
of Arts and Science)

Life in Brindavan (men's college) is based on the three-fold path of duty, devotion and discipline. It is the practice of this three-fold path, that brings great felicity to everybody. Our college and our hostel have been shining examples of the renaissance that is being silently brought about by Bhagavan in the field of education. This renaissance will undoubtedly usher in a new era of spiritual awareness and purposeful living.

In addition to imparting curricular education, our college helps students realize the values of life such as love, tolerance, understanding, faith, discipline and devotion. Bhagavan lays equal stress on discipline and devotion. Devotion without discipline will not last long while discipline without devotion to God will not achieve any results. And when a person has discipline and devotion, he spontaneously discharges his duties and obligations. When properly trained from a young age to appreciate and adopt all that is good in the conduct of others, while at the same time ignoring their weaknesses, an individual acquires the virtues of tolerance, forbearance and sympathy. Such training also gives us the power of introspection and enables us to analyze the causes for our own shortcomings and take steps for their removal.

On account of the influence of 'Kali' (age of darkness) neither the right environment nor the inclination for progress is being created to enable today's youth to grow up into responsible men, conscious of their social, moral and spiritual obligations. The student of today is placed on the horns of a dilemma, not knowing what to do or whom to follow and, for lack of proper guidance, yields to the temptations of the world only to ruin his life. Not realizing that man should be merely in the world but not of the world, he struts about aimlessly in the labyrinthine delusions of the world. This wayward wandering of his ultimately denies him the luxury of the 'begging-bowl' that a university degree is these days.

Against all this widespread gloom, however, we have Bhagavan's divine assurance that He is here to set things right. Bhagavan has said that it is His Mission to put man back on the ancient highway to God and that He would reestablish dharma on earth. The Supreme Being that He is, He has only to will it and the earth shall become heaven. But, as the highest upholder of 'human rights', He has chosen to bring about a gradual transformation by awakening human consciousness and letting man do it all for himself--though not exactly 'all', for without His aid not even a blade of grass can move.

Thus, it is left for us to make a heaven out of this earth. And the best way to set about this sacred task is to follow His commands implicitly, to put into practice His divine message of righteous living. The colleges that Bhagavan has been establishing for the youth of this country provide the right 'culture' for the development of all that is good and godly in man. The students and alumni of Bhagavan's colleges are proof of the infinite good they are doing to the country.



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM
SATHYA SAI BABA COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS

A new directory of Sathya Sai Baba Centers is being prepared and will be mailed to all Directors and Centers in February.

An information package for new Sathya Sai Baba Centers is being prepared and will be available in February. The package contains a full set of Guidelines and addenda, a Newsletter sample, information from the active Sai Committees, and other relevant material. These will automatically be mailed to all new Centers (starting with those listed in the last Newsletter) but any Center may receive a mailing by sending \$10 to the Sathya Sai Baba Center of the Americas, P. O. Box 668, Soquel, CA 95073. The \$10 goes towards our printing and mailing budget and enables the Council to send out Guidelines and other materials to individuals who are interested in the Sai organization.

BHAJAN MESSAGE
THE AKHANDA BHAJAN

On November 10th in the temple at Prasanthi Nilayam, Sathya Sai Baba lit the oil lamp that shone for the duration of the fourth Akhanda Bhajan. (This light is called the Akhanda Jyothi.) With this gesture bhajans commenced in the temple, and, as the evening hour reached each part of the world, in sequence lamps were lit and bhajans began. In some places Centers joined together to sing for the full day, while others lengthened their regular bhajans. With each according to its own time zone, the entire bhajan actually lasted considerably longer than 24 hours, from the first chanting of Om in Prasanthi Nilayam to the very last Arathi in another part of the world. Yet, in the course of those hours, there was some time when all the lamps were lit and we were all singing together. It is nice to think that during that time, the Lord who hears all, heard millions of His children around the world singing His Names with love for Him. Though He is called with more than one name, described in many languages and by many religions, it is one and the same God that each heart seeks and each voice calls to. Through this Akhanda Bhajan it is shown to us again that:

*There is only one Religion; the Religion of Love
There is only one Language; the Language of the Heart
There is one one Caste; the Caste of Humanity
There is only one God; He is Omnipresent*

The Akhanda Bhajan has been scheduled on the weekend closest to November 13th. It is a celebration of the completion of another year of the presence of Sathya Sai Baba among us. The date may be changed slightly in 1980; we will try to inform Centers in advance so they can plan to participate, if they choose to.

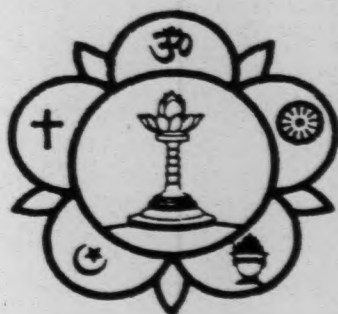
This has been named an Akhanda Bhajan, that is to say, Bhajan done without any break. But was it really an Akhanda Bhajan? Can we call it 'unbroken' Bhajan? What is a period of 24 hours, when we consider the vastness of the universe and the eternity of time? It is just a wink, a minute part of the life of man on earth. Akhanda Bhajan must be as continuous as breathing itself. . .

This program of Bhajan for 24 hours, continuously done, all around the world, in all lands, has therefore spread the message of love through

the Names of the Embodiment of Universal Love; it has saturated the atmosphere with the thought of God and of the peace and joy that He showers. The Bhajan that you have done here has affected not only this particular area and its environment, but it will transmute the entire atmosphere. . . Let your whole life be a Bhajan. Believe that God is everywhere at all times and derive strength, comfort and joy, singing in your heart in His Presence the Glory of God.

(Quotes are from the discourse given by Sathya Sai Baba at the close of the first Akhanda Bhajan on November 14, 1976, Prasanthi Nilayam.)

Just as Swami lit the Akhanda Jyothi at Prasanthi Nilayam, He has lit the lamp of devotion that shines in all our hearts, and will shine eternally. With bhajans, as with other spiritual practices, we fan this flame.



Through holy merit, you have earned this human life. You have won the additional good fortune of nearness to the very Avatar of God, come as an Embodiment of Love, Power and Wisdom. Do not let this magnificent chance go without benefitting you. Whatever others may say, hold fast to your faith and declare that you will not be tempted away from the path you have chosen as the best. If only you take one step towards me, I shall take a hundred towards you and help you to reach me. I shall bless you with the confidence and courage needed for leading a life of peace, harmony and service.

FOR MEN

It is the rule of nature, that the morning is the period of Sathwic quality, the "noon" of Rajasic Nature and the "evening" hour of dusk of Thamasic nature. At dawn, the mind is awakened from the comfort of sleep liberated from agitations and depressions, and so the mind is calm and clear. At that time, in that mental condition, the dhyana (meditation) of the Lord is very fruitful, as everyone knows. But ignorant of that significance, men continue doing the ritual, in a blind mechanical way, simply because the ancients have laid down the rule. The second duty of man is to perform the Samdhya-worship (intense concentration on the Lord) after realizing the inner and the deeper meaning of the same.

As day progresses, Man is infused with the Rajoguna, the active effortful nature, and he enters the field of daily work and toil. Before he takes his noonday food, he is directed to meditate on the Lord again and to dedicate the work as well as the fruit derived through it, to the Lord Himself. He can start eating only after this act of devotion and grateful remembrance. This is the meaning of the Maadhyanhikam, the noon time worship. By observing this ritual, Rajoguna is kept in check and it is overpowered by Sathwa (vital and pure) nature. This is the third duty of all men.

Then, man is possessed by a third nature; the Thamas (dull attributes) when evening descends, he hurries home and eats his fill and sleep overpowers him. But, there is one duty still awaiting him. To eat and sleep is the fate of idlers and drones. When the worst of the gunas, (human qualities) the Thamas threatens to rule, man must make a special effort to escape its coils by resorting to prayer in the company of those who extol the Lord. He should read about the glory of God, the cultivation of good virtues, and the purposeful nurturing of good rules of conduct. This is the evening Samdhya-vandhanam, which is prescribed.

Therefore, the mind that emerges from the vacancy of sleep has to be properly trained and counselled; it must be made to feel that the bliss of Dhyana (meditation) and the joy of being unaware of the outer world, are much grander and more lasting than the comfort one gets by means of the daily dose of physical sleep. This bliss, this joy can be felt and realized by all; discrimination will bring this home to you. This is the fourth duty of man.

The man who, so long as he has life in him, observes the thrice-a-day Samdhya, is indeed of the highest type; he is ever glorious; he attains all that he desires. Above all, he is liberated, even while alive.

--Baba

FOR WOMEN

Now, there is one problem; are women entitled for Brahmavidya (spiritual attainment)? This question has been answered already. If women do not deserve this knowledge, how did Vishnumurthi teach Bhudevi the mystery of the Githa? The Yogasastra (mental pursuit that brings success) and Manthrasastra (chanting of the Sastras) were both taught to Parvathi by Iswara. This must therefore be correct, authorized by the Sastras (the scripture that illumines), is it not?

In the Brihadaranyaka (an ancient spiritual teaching) there is mention of such Mahabharatha, (an ancient spiritual teaching) the names of Sula-bha and Yogini are found. Women should be inspired by their moral rectitude and their steadfastness and then walk in that path; then, only does the question of reaching that height arise. Chooda, Madalasa and other such women attained Brahmajnana (God wisdom). Women can by Sadhana, (spiritual discipline) attain that unwavering unequalled auspicious Brahmam; (all knowing God) this is made clear in the Yogavasishtha. Novitiates, householders, recluses, all among women, have by their pure hearts and holy conduct, attained the goal.

Women are entitled to universal respect. Why, Causative Appearances of Godhead like Rama and Krishna, religious teachers like Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhwa, bearers of Wisdom like Buddha, Jesus Christ and Muhammad-- were they not all born of women? Their mothers were embodiments of holy glory and they gave the world sons who transformed it. Women who follow in their footsteps and lead pure consecrated lives can claim the right for Brahmajnana, and no one can deny it to them.

In fact, the Atma (eternal pure consciousness) is devoid of all difference as between men and women. It is Nithya, Suddha Buddha, Swayamjyothi; ie, it is eternal pure consciousness itself and self illumining. Women can reach the status of holy women, only when they become aware of the nature of the Atma.

The patron deities of Vidya (Saraswathi) of Wealth (Lakshmi) and of Jnana (Parvathi) are all women! Therefore, it is unbelievable that women have no right to spiritual discipline, leading to merger with Brahmam (reality) and to the final emancipation from bondage. A lion asleep is unaware of its nature; so too. Man asleep in the coils of Maya (the unreal) is not aware of his being the Splendorful Atma.

--Baba

SAI FAMILY EVENTS

The past four months have been a time for Sathya Sai Baba devotees and friends to gather together comprising retreats, the singing of bhajans, and sathsang or the sharing of good and pious comradeship. In time of world and internal strife, during this age of Kali, these gatherings of God-minded people are as an oasis to a thirsty traveler. Some of these events have been:

LAKE SURPRISE RETREAT

Last September 15 and 16 there was a Sathya Sai Baba retreat at Lake Surprise, New York attended by several hundred devotees. Those who helped make the retreat a reality were four of the eastern directors from the Council of the Americas, and the Poughkeepsie Center members who did most of the organizing and developing which they accomplished exceptionally well under the capable direction of their president.

A topic of one of the invited speakers was "What Baba Is Telling Me", and he enlarged upon living up to ones personal commitments and serving humanity. Another lecturer reminded devotees that "they should take time to think about what can happen as a result of their actions and words before taking action."

The children's afternoon was a tremendously successful series of plays, dances, and presentations centering around Krishna, Sathya Sai and Vedanta philosophy.

One devotee expressed the feelings of everyone at the meeting by simply saying "Baba is here with us".

SUNBELT RETREAT

A retreat including devotees from Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico was appropriately called the SATHYA SAI BABA SUNBELT RETREAT. The gathering took place in a lovely mountainous area outside Tucson, Arizona last October 5, 6, and 7. The schedule of events included sharing of spiritual experiences, lectures, movies, bhajans, morning exercises and a vegetarian diet. All activities were designed to heighten the consciousness and lead ones thoughts Godward. It was concluded that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's presence was deeply felt in the hearts of all who attended.

POINT LOMA RETREAT

On Saturday, October 20, the three centers of San Diego, California area, LaJolla, Chula Vista and Point Loma, joined together for a twelve-hour MINI RETREAT.

In this way the expenses of food, (everyone brought a pot luck dish) lodging, and gasoline were minimized for the ecology-minded devotees. Consequently, all efforts could be concentrated on the joy of being together and the singing of bhajans.

On their hilltop sight, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the morning threatened to be clouded with gray skys and rain. The assembled group sang the gayathri mantra one hundred and eight times, and as if Baba had worked one of his Leelas, the clouds disappeared allowing the sun to shine with all of God's glory.

A SEASON OF FESTIVALS

The months of October, November and December contain major holidays for many religions. Sathya Sai Baba Centers in the New York area held special meetings to honor some of those celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam. The festival of Dasara is celebrated for nine nights, culminating with Vijayadasami Day, the tenth day, the day of victory. The Flushing Sai Center held bhajans on each of the nine nights and a special bhajan and service on the final day, October first. The New York City Downtown Center had a three-hour bhajan on Vijayadasami Day which was made more joyous by the participation of members from the Pound Ridge Center. The Hindu Festival of Light is called Deepavalli, or Deevalli. It is similar to New Year's Day and Center members gathered for a three-hour bhajan at the New York City Downtown Center for this festival.

For the past three years, the Flushing Center has graciously opened its door to Sathya Sai Baba Centers in the area for the Akhand Bhajan. With Swami's Grace, there are more singers each year and for the full 24 hours the atmosphere resounds with beautiful voices singing God's glory.

Celebration of Swami's Birthday began before dawn in Flushing. At 5 A.M. members chanted the Omkar and Suprebhatham prayer, followed by the 108 names of God, and an hour of bhajans. At 10 that morning, they were joined by members of other Centers for a special Pooja (service) in which Swami's name was chanted one-hundred thousand times. The New York City Downtown Center hosted the evening meeting. Joining the celebration were the Sai Centers of Brooklyn, Flushing, Planetarium Station, Pound Ridge, and Northvale, New Jersey.

Those in attendance were reminded of the precious chance that they've been given, the blessing that they share in knowing Sai Baba, and knowing that He is here because of His love for us all.

TRANSFORMATION OF A SAI FAMILY

The infinite love of Sathya Sai Baba for His devotees is reflected in the miracle of profound changes in one small Sai family. Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual transformations took effect slowly, and subtly over the period of five years of their devotion to Sai Baba. The cumulative effect is astonishing!

Through the daughter's immediate and full faith in Sai Baba, one by one, the minds and hearts of the wife, son, husband, son-in-law and wife's sister gradually opened to Swami's love and teachings. All but the husband made several trips to India to receive the bountiful blessings of Baba's outpouring beneficence.

Almost two years ago the husband suddenly experienced strange symptoms: total loss of hearing in one ear, extreme double vision, loss of equilibrium. Exhaustive hospital testing finally, after several months of a worsening state, confirmed the diagnosis of a tumor of the pons area of the brain stem, inaccessible to surgery. Loss of speech, paralysis of the entire right side, and a comatose condition led to near death in the Intensive Care Unit.

The son again and again told his father to repeat Baba's name so he would be thinking of God, and have His name on his lips at the time of dying. Also, vibuthi was placed on his tongue.

All drastic medical measures (shunning an operation to drain brain fluid, radiation, drugs) were refused by the family. The terminal patient was taken by a nine-hour ambulance ride to a holistic, metabolic treatment center for a stay of one month. Along with continued repetition of Baba's name, and vibuthi, an immediate improvement began, continuing in small but steady recovery signs throughout the whole past year.

The last brain (CAT) scan showed no tumor, and the doctors had no explanation why the patient had not become progressively worse. With educational blinders, they still urged radiation and drugs, again refused by the family.

By Baba's infinite Grace, the whole family-group trip to His Feet became a reality in November 1979. Blessed by Baba creating vibuthi for him, conversing with him, touching him lovingly, the husband feels full of bliss to be in what he terms, heaven.

Beautiful to see is the joy and happiness radiating from the husband who says he has never felt this happiness before in his life.

Like a train engine pulling many cars, Baba's actions often serve many purposes simultaneously. Given the rare privilege to be of continuous service for almost two years, the wife was brought to Baba in her heart through daily meditation and prayers for strength and guidance to a state of deepening surrender to His Will.

The relationship of the father and son, in former years one of recurrent ego clashes, blossomed from the seeds of the son's daily devoted service into a growing love for one another, colored with great good humor, and fragrant with frequent spiritual discussions.

A constant source of encouragement, the loving daughter, son-in-law, and sister were and are an inspiration with their positive loving prayers and bright attitudes.

From the drastic illness through the gradual recovery still evolving, to the husband came a sure faith in Baba, and with it a quality of sweetness, newly manifested in a beautiful outlook, speech and acceptance. His one great desire is to serve Baba for the rest of his life to be His instrument.

A great lesson has been taught to the whole family - the priceless lesson of patience. Baba says, *Patience is all the strength a man needs.*

The physical recovery is a visible miracle, but even more miraculous is the breath of spiritual awakening to Lord Sathya Sai, with love, devotion, surrender and deep gratitude expanding their hearts into overflowing love for Baba and for the global Sai family, from the confines of one's own kith and kin to the family of mankind. - Baba's oceanic Grace and Love has turned the tide in this profound transformation of one small Sai family.

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

PRASANTHI NILAYAM, INDIA 1979

Every year the birthday of Sri Sathya Sai Baba on November 23rd is celebrated all over the globe with great consecration by His devotees. The 1979 Jayanti (birthday celebration) had special significance for those so fortunate as to be at Prasanthi Nilayam. . .

Though we have contact with Baba every day while He stays at Prasanthi Nilayam, that day we witnessed an altogether incredible manifestation of devinity which was a fresh, dazzling effulgence emanating from His face, eyes, and smile that spread throughout the area.

That day, Baba's long and illuminating discourse on the present day evils engulfing the world pierced the innermost core of every heart, the words vibrating into every ear. Very forcibly Baba chastised all evil doers, particularly the politicians who have no morals. He once again emphatically told the gathering that He would fulfill the purpose for which He has chosen this incarnation which is to establish righteousness everywhere.

On the morning of November 20th the Bal Vikas gurus (teachers) came into the inner quadrangle of the Mandir (temple) sanctifying the atmosphere with melodious bhajans. The lady teachers were wearing their festival gifts from Baba, light green saris, while the men were dressed in sparkling white. They all moved slowly and steadily, saluting the cosmic personality. Baba was sitting upon His chair placed, for this occasion, near the idol of Vinayaka (another name for Ganesha, the elephant-faced God).

When all had gathered in the auditorium, Baba addressed the teachers, laying stress on their duty, devotion and discipline. *Service is not for one day; it is for a lifetime.*

November 22nd was a day of eager expectation and great jubilation. It was a day of inexpressible inner happiness. Children belonging to the Bal Vikas classes, drawn from all corners of the country, clad in simple, spotless white. The youngsters faces shone with divine innocence as they moved into the arena singing songs to God.

Bhagavan Baba, raising his ever-assuring right palm, blessed the children. Indeed they are blessed for the simple reason that they have been drawn into the lap of the divine personality at such tender ages. They are all future instruments of God to reform the world. Baba, in his address to the children, told them they would be His messengers, spreading his message: Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness) Santi (peace), Prema (love), and Ahimsa (nonviolence).

In the evening in the great spiritual discourse, Baba said that He never was born, will never be born, but has come down in human form to save humanity, believers and nonbelievers alike. Swami's speech kept everyone pinned to his seat, all limbs forgetting their functions, except eyes and ears.

It was indeed a memorable time and we are all blessed to witness that cosmic scene. By the evening of November 23, Baba's birthday, the crowds had grown to enormous proportions to see Him swinging in His joola (swing), so that all those present can envision God swinging in their hearts.

- An Indian Devotee



AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM, INDIA

APRIL 1979

Oh most fortunate it is to be here at Prasanthi Nilayam.

The tiny ant so privileged to build its home in the sand blessed by your footfall.

The lucky crow which can perch upon the mandir or swoop down to gain a closer look at you - Lord Sai.

The trees, swaying in ecstasy to be rooted so near to you, are bearing silent witness to leelas galore.

It is even more auspicious to be a beggar outside the Nilayam gates, than to have all wealth and be cursed to never know you at all.

Yes, even the palsied, the physically handicapped are by far more fortunate in being here - directly in your presence - than the most physically perfect - if his fate prevents him from coming here.

Surely, these must be the most blessed souls of all ages!

- A Devotee

SAI FAMILY BOOKS AND TAPES

BOOKS, TAPES AND PICTURES

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Book

Center of America

P. O. Box 278

Tustin CA 92680, telephone (714) 835-5206

New books, tapes and pictures at the Book Center are as follows:

BOOKS

1. It was stated in the Summer 1979 issue of the Newsletter that the Book Center was attempting to stock books in any available foreign language. Due to unforeseen complications, this plan is not feasible, but a few books have been obtained and these are now available at cost, no discount applies. In Italian, Dr. Sandweiss's book SAI BABA THE HOLY MAN AND THE PSYCHIATRIST (softcover \$4.50); also Howard Murphet's SAI BABA MAN OF MIRACLES (hardcover \$5.50).
2. The book GARLAND OF 108 PRECIOUS GEMS is now available. The first shipment has arrived and more are on the way. This book "throws precious light on one or more of the countless dimensions of Bhagavan's God-hood, and will illumine the reader's understanding of Bhagavan and His great mission. . ." Priced at \$1.25.

TAPES

1. These tapes are on order from India and should be available by the end of January. Tape No. 101; Music, songs, and dialogue from the soundtrack of the movie Shirdi Ke Sai Baba. Tape No. 144: Prasanthi Bhajans by Sri Sathya Sai Seva organizations in Bombay (the third tape in this series). Tape No. 145: A musical presentation (approximately 90% music and singing, 10% dialogue - in Hindi) of the life of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Each tape priced at \$3.95.
2. Tape BC-3: A discourse by Sri Sathya Sai Baba to the Seva organizations at Brindavan on May 25, 1979. Includes instructions on meditation. Priced at \$3.75.
3. Tape BC-4: The entire book SAI BABA AVATAR by Howard Murphet recorded on six tapes. This is the third in a series of tapes for the blind, or those who cannot read the books, but also available to everyone. Priced at \$18.00 for all six tapes.

PICTURES

1. The Book Center has received a shipment of magnetic pictures. These pictures of Sri Sathya Baba are in plastic, mounted on metal, size 2 X 3 inches. There are 10 different poses; when ordering, please describe the type of pose desired, and, if possible, reference an existing photo to better describe the pose you wish. All are colored, priced at 65¢ each.

* * * * *

A LETTER FROM SATHYA SAI BABA COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS

Dear Friends:

Please do not hesitate to call on us with any questions you may have. We hope you will keep us posted throughout the year on all significant matters in your Center - special events, changes in address, officers or meetings, etc. It is important that you keep in contact with us and keep us informed about your Center and its activities.

An attempt is being made to include more information especially useful to Center members (on bhajan, seva, etc.) in the SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER. Please be sure your Center is a current subscriber and encourage all members and interested persons to subscribe individually, and to continue to give the NEWSLETTER their input. In this way we can keep in better touch with each other's interests and enhance communication within the Sai Family.

I would suggest posting a small notice about the NEWSLETTER and subscription procedures at each meeting, so that visitors and members will be aware of it. We have had several letters from members of Centers who had never heard of the SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER and asked us to make an effort to publicize it in the Sai Centers. See the back cover for subscription information. Looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Richard Bayer, Vice President
P. O. Box 668, Soquel, CA 95073

NEW SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS

New Centers, add to each location Sathya Sai Baba Center of:

- AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS, Mr. Joseph Pompano, 435 N. Pleasant St., Apt. 313, Amherst, MA 01002, phone (413) 549-4634. Bhajans: Sunday, 5:30 P.M.
- BOLTON, CONNECTICUT, Simonne Taflin, 17 Volpi Rd., Bolton, CT 06040, Bhajans: Thursday, 7:30 P.M.
- GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT, Bernie Shanley, Goodale Hill Rd., Glastonbury, CT 06033, phone (203) 649-6501. Bhajans and Study Circle: Sunday, 7:30 P.M.
- BURLINGTON, VERMONT, Mrs. Marsha Abrams, Box 99, Nashville Rd., Jericho, VT 05465, phone (802) 899-3303. Bhajans: Friday, 7 P.M.
- AGOURA, CALIFORNIA, Mr. Robert S. Sonti, 5226 Edgware Dr., Agoura, CA 91301
- LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA, Lila Youngs, 8718 Dunaway Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037, phone (714) 453-4393. Bhajans: Thursday, 7:30 P.M.

Change of address for Sathya Sai Baba Center of:

- ALBANY, NEW YORK, Dr. and Mrs. Muralidhar, 88 Alpine Dr., Latham, NY 12110.
- ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, Mr. S. Kannan, 2770 Drake Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Bhajans: Friday, 7 P.M.
- ROCK HILL, MISSOURI, Brian Hillyard, 907 N. Rock Hill Rd., St. Louis, MO 63119, phones (314) 962-2290 - 962-2828. Bhajans: Sunday, 7 P.M. This group is made up of devotees who were formerly members of the South St. Louis and Concord Village Centers.
- LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA, Betty Boman, 2641 San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Bhajans: Wednesday, 8 P.M.

CORRECTIONS

In the last issue of the SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER (Fall 1979) some incorrect information was given concerning the Charlotte-Gastonia Center of North Carolina. Please make the necessary changes as follows: Sathya Sai Baba Center of:

- CHARLOTTE-GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA, Shanti Fechner, 3000 Whitson Rd., Gastonia, NC 28052, phone (704) 866-9955. Bhajans and Study Circle: Saturday, 3 P.M.

Correction of telephone number and additional information for Sathya Sai Baba Center of:

- NEW YORK CITY - DOWNTOWN, (mailing address) Faith Hollander, 203 Cumbermeade Rd., Fort Lee, NJ 07024, phone (201) 224-9236. Bhajans and Study Circle: Thursday, 6:30 P.M. Bhajans: Sunday, 6 P.M. Please phone for the address of meetings.
- FLUSHING, NEW YORK has now added to its program a Bhajan meeting on Sunday at 11 A.M. All other information remains the same.

Correction of phone number for Sathya Sai Baba Center of:

- CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, (617) 492-8641.

Please delete from all center lists Sathya Sai Baba Center of:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT | - EAST MEDFORD, OREGON |
| - GREATER DETROIT, MICHIGAN | - ENCINADA, CALIFORNIA |
| - CONCORD VILLAGE, MISSOURI | - GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA |
| - SOUTH ST. LOUIS MISSOURI | - THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA |
| - GRANTS PASS, OREGON | |

There are two new Regional Directors of the Sathya Sai Baba Council of Americas. Welcome to:

- MRS. LEE WINFIELD ALBERTS, 229 Donlea Rd., Barrington, Illinois 60010, phone (312) 381-1530.
- DR. WILLIAM M. HARVEY, 60 N. Ewing Ave., St. Louis, Missouri 63103, phone (314) 241-5472 and 533-2808.

Change of address for Regional Director:

- MR. LARRY SMITH, 110 Minot Ave., Chula Vista, California 92010, phone (714) 422-2031.



BAL VIKAS TEACHERS CONFERENCE AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM, INDIA

The Fourth All India Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Gurus (teachers) was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on November 20-22, 1979. A representative teacher from each state of India gave suggestions on how to improve the program throughout the country. Sri Indulal Shah presented the theme, The Scientific Approach In Bal Vikas, and said in his talk that it has been found that the intellect and concentration of children improve after taking up Bhajan singing. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba presented copies of spiritual stories with corresponding large pictures and exhibitions of the Bal Vikas Children's Movement.

In His Divine Discourse on November 21, 1979, Sri Sathya Sai Baba stressed the need for Bal Vikas Gurus to practice meditation for it is the process by which we control thoughts. He said that the gurus, at least once a day, should try to reach the sacred place of bliss. *One who has enjoyed bliss can show it to another. The teacher should experience the place to which they want to take the child. So the first thing for the guru is to find that place of bliss. The guru should not feel proud at being in a place of authority and should not sit on the throne of ego, but be humble.*

Baba said further that to put the Bal Vikas gurus on the right path they need a guru of gurus. The Bal Vikas teachers connection comes straight from the Heart and they should take guidance from the Heart. If there are differences between Bal Vikas teachers, both of them will be removed without looking into who is right or wrong.

Sai stressed that the essence of all religions should be taught; Bible, Quoran and Buddhist scriptures should be included. He said, *Do not show hatred to any religion - one who sees all religions as equal is a total man.*

He concluded by asking the gurus to *teach with a smiling face as the aspect of love is most important for achieving this great task.*

There was a cultural program in the evenings of November 20 and 21 presented in the Divine Presence by the Bal Vikas students which included singing, dancing and spiritual dramas. The children had obviously spent much time preparing their offerings to Baba. Rama, Krishna, Hanuman and saints and sages were depicted with beautiful costumes and set design and presented in a very dedicated and devoted way.

The morning of November 22, the All India Rally of Bal Vikas students was held in the Poornachandra auditorium. There were 2,000 representatives of the more than 50,000 Bal Vikas students in India. There was bhajan singing, speeches by students and a spiritual quiz - competition between the states. Then Baba gave a discourse. He told them: *Children of Bharath (India) the Mother Bharath is looking anxiously for you. You children must wipe the tears of Mother Bharath. The country is sacred. The time is sacred.*

In His Discourse Baba also said there is no greater strength then acting in unity and that we should take the path which promotes mutual welfare. He said that the four secrets of life are: *self confidence, self satisfaction, self sacrifice and self realization.* Baba stressed that *everything in your body is a gift from the mother. So first satisfy the mother of the body.*

He concluded with: *It is only from you, the children of Bharath that the heroes can arise to put this country in a good condition.*



CHILDREN'S CORNER

THE LITTLE FROG

Dear Jake:

How are you, I am fine. Mom said that I should write you a letter about living in Sai Baba Land so I am. I will tell you what happened just the other day.

I was just kind of hanging around the courtyard. Mom had gone into the prayer hall to pray --- as usual. Gee, she sure prays a lot to Baba. I don't know what about. She says sometimes she prays to Him about me.

Well, anyway, I was playing with my cars in the sand when right there was the smallest little frog I ever saw. In little tiny hops, it had come from the other side of the courtyard and was heading for the entrance to the Mandir, which is, you know, Sai Baba's house.

I caught him in my hand. He was only about one-third of an inch long with tiny little legs that kept right on trying to jump.

"Now wait a minute," I said. "Somebody will step on you in there. I'll take you where it's safe." I ran over to the neem tree which has those magic leaves, and let him hop out of my hand.

Just as fast as anything that little frog just started hopping back to the Mandir. He was about the size of a big fly so he didn't hop very big. I headed him off at the gate.

"Listen," I said. "What's the matter, are you thirsty?" He was heading towards the water jug. Maybe he'd like it down by the well. So I picked him up and ran all the way around the Mandir and past the idol of Lord



Ganesha, the Elephant God. A little old lady with a walking stick smiled at me and said, "Sai Ram." "Sai Ram," I said over my shoulder. I was in a hurry.

I found a big puddle of water next to the well and down he plopped. I decided to wait around to see what he'd do so I hid behind Lord Ganesha. Just then some Sai devotees from California came along. I closed my eyes so they wouldn't see me.

One California lady said to the other, "My Goodness," isn't that little Frankie worshipping Lord Ganesha? Isn't that marvelous and he's so young!" I felt kind of bad about that, I mean, Lord Ganesha is fine and everything but, when you've got Sai Baba taking care of you, who needs anyone else, even a neat guy with an elephant head.

Do you know that that little frog just made a beeline for the Mandir again. I figured we had to have a talk, so I picked him up.

"Listen, you, frogs don't belong in the Mandir. That's Sai Baba's house and He's God." I didn't want to be mean, but I had to level with him.

"I know," he said. "I must see Him."

"You can't, no more interviews until Dasara." Sai Baba was really busy these days.

"Oh please help me," he said, "I'll never get another chance."

"Well, maybe he has some interviews this afternoon, but --- " this was crazy. Sai Baba didn't even have time to see my mom and this frog was so small probably even the "head frog" wouldn't see him.

"But you see," explained the little frog, "I was a sage in my last life and when Narayana told me that God would be really living in the world now I begged Him for a chance. The only body he had for me was this little frog's body. In my last life I did much sadhana and spiritual practices, but because of one little mistake I now need special grace of Sai Baba in order to become enlightened."

"What was the mistake," I asked.

"Oh, nothing much," he said. "I only pretended to worship Lord Ganesha one day when I was really doing something else."

I gulped. "OK," I said, "I'll help you but if I ever need help you've got to help me too!"

Clutching the tiny sage in my hand, I started back around the Mandir. There wasn't anyone around so I darted across the courtyard and pounded on Sai Baba's door.

"Ouch!" I heard a tiny voice from my hand. "Sorry, sage," I said and used my other hand to pound.

A great big Seva Dal lady with very long arms and wearing a bright red sari bustled up. I wasn't afraid though because Mom said that the Seva Dal ladies were here to help us, and to go to them if I was ever in trouble. As if anyone could ever be in trouble in Sai Baba Land. But you can't explain everything to Mom, and I knew I couldn't explain this frog to the Seva Dal lady.

"Frankie," she almost yelled, then she remembered where she was.

"Sai Ram," she said smiling. "I thought you knew better than this. Why just a few minutes ago I thought I saw you praying to Lord Ganesha."

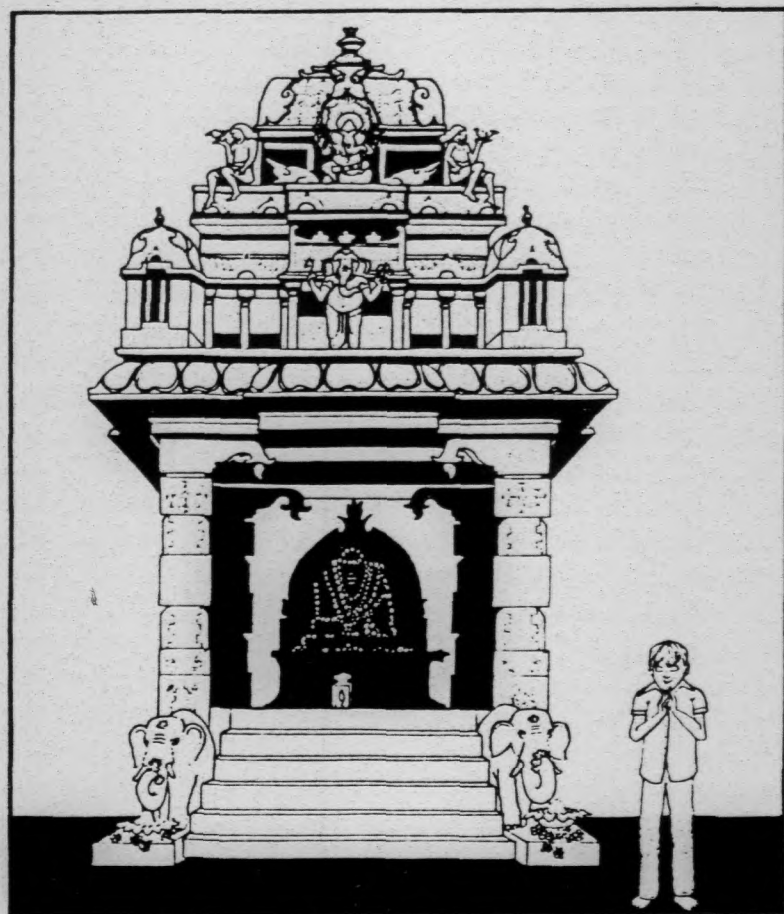
Just then Sai Baba saved both of us.

The big blue door swung slowly open. A round smiling face, framed with a halo of fuzzy hair sat on the top of a long bright orange robe, and at the bottom where I was were these perfect little brown toes which looked like they had just had a bath. Mom is always talking about Sai Baba's toes.

Sai Baba held out his hand and I opened mine to let the little frog jump from my hand into the hands of the Lord.

"Good boy," Sai Baba said, smiling at me, "Achaa!" that means good. "You take Padmanamaskar." I knew what that meant so I dove at his lotus feet. Then, the door closed and the Seva Dal lady was left looking very bewildered.

I felt a surge of happy feelings coming up really fast like I always do when I touch his feet, but this time the feelings were filling up my eyes and spilling out.



As I turned back I remembered Lord Ganesha and figured I had some explaining to do.

"See," I began, "I didn't mean to worship you," that didn't sound right. "What I mean is, you're really a great God and everything and gee, I really love Sai Geetha," she is Baba's elephant.

"But see, I don't know you very well and besides, I only love Sai Baba." I guess I was starting to cry a little because I really didn't want to come back to be a frog.

Just then, the elephant face blurred and became the round smiling face of Sathya Sai Baba. I heard some pretty music from somewhere and right there by his side, was an old, old sage, sitting like my mom does with his legs crossed.

"Achaa, Good Boy" said Sai Baba and a shiny golden light was all around us everywhere. And that was the end of my adventure with the little frog.



Man has not come into this world to strut about for a while on the stage, consuming food and gaily gallivanting. Man comes into the world so that he may bask in the Presence of God, through the exercise of Love and the cultivation of Love. The earth is a great enterprise, a busy factory, where the product is Love. By means of Sadhana it is possible to produce Love and export it to millions and millions of people in need of it. The more it is shared the deeper it becomes, the sweeter its taste, and the vaster the joy. By means of Love, one can approach God and stay in His Presence, for God is Love and when one lives in Love, he is living in God."

Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Richard Kaplowitz 553-0245

BAL VIKAS TEACHERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is to be an open meeting for Bal Vikas teachers, ~~parents~~
~~and interested guests~~ at the Sathya Sai Baba Center of Hollywood,
7911 Willoughby Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046, telephone (213) 656-
9373, 10:30 A.M., Sunday, February 10, 1980.

The meeting starts promptly at 10:30 and will be followed by a
"pot luck" luncheon at 12 noon.

If you wish to start a Bal Vikas childrens' group at your Sathya
Sai Baba Center, please contact Marc and Denise Dake, Box 1137,
Shady Cove, Oregon 97539.

What Brahma is doing, is to take hold of the immortal droplets to convert
them into human bodies; that is all that Brahma does. But those of you,
teachers, who have attained this body through the grace of Brahma, it is
only when you are able to instill great ideals into the young minds of the
children who are entrusted to you as students that you can justify calling
yourselves teachers who are created by Brahma. It is the divine and sa-
cred name of God, the divine and sacred thoughts about God, the divine and
sacred utterances and the divine and sacred feelings which you, as teachers,
must take the resolution to instill in the minds of the children.

--Baba

* * * * *

Under the direction of Sri Sathya Sai Baba the first Bal Vikas Newsletter,
which was planned for January 1980, will be postponed for a few months.



DIVINE DISCOURSE ON SWAMI'S CHILDHOOD
the last of a four part series delivered to
summer course students, 1978

The new year began, and I had to begin the work for which I had come. I then said, "I am Sai. Give up all connections with me. It will not be possible for anyone, however high he may be, to establish and continue any connection with me." They said, "How do we know that you are Sai?" I took flowers into my hand and I threw them on the ground. The flowers arranged themselves in letters which read "Sathya Sai". At that very time I left the home. From that day until today, there are no attachments of any kind in my life.

Even in the Krishna avathar, we find some connections between brothers-in-law. He was protecting these relations in battle. He appeared to show protectiveness and the need for attachment. But in the matter of divinity, there are no such differences in any avathars. Even in the case of Rama avathar, searching for Sita and behaving in a manner by which he could protect Dasaratha's words, and killing Ravana - all of this looked as if it had something to do with a family member.

But in the case of the Sai avathar, such a remark even to the smallest extent, one will not find. The devotees are my relations. The devotees are everything to me. There is not one single thing which I need. I exist for you. Students, recognizing this truth, you must stand at all times either in the service of the country, or in the service of the community to which you belong, in a sacred and loving manner. This is why I say my life is my message. I show everything by practicing it myself.

Students, you may not all know everything about my daily life. From the time I get up at 4:00 in the morning, until I go to bed at 11:00 at night, I attend to everything relating to me. No others are doing the work for me. You may see some students coming with me, but they only come with me and go back with me. They do not do anything regarding my bath, my clothes, or my food. I clean my own bathroom. I attend to all my work myself. For my sake there is not an expenditure



"Wisdom flashes
like lightning
Amidst the clouds
of the inner sky -
One has to foster
the flash
And preserve the light. "

* Sathya Sai Baba

(continued)

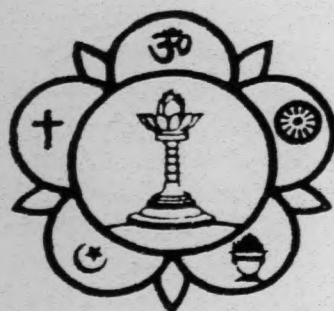
of even one paisa every month. I am like one who begs for his food. I eat my food out of what different people bring for me with devotion. Many devotees in their devotion cook that food and bring it to me, and I eat out of that. But the outside students do not know all of this.

To some extent you must understand what I eat. Of all the things I eat, I like most ragi (a type of ground corn, dark in color, and popular with the village people of South India) and chutney made of ground nuts. I do not eat sweets and do not like any kind of fruits. I do not take anything which has any value on it. But when the devotees invite me to their homes, they prepare a variety of food and bring in a lot of food and many things. I only touch them, but I do not eat them. From the very beginning I led a very simple life and very high type of thinking. From that day until today I have been living as an example to others.

You may say that I do not belong to you, but I will never say that you do not belong to me. There is no one in this world who does not belong to me. But some individuals do not recognize this truth and say, "Oh we do not need Sai Baba." They will say they do not need Sai Baba in this form, but surely they need someone in another form. But in whatever form it may be, they need me. Recognizing this truth, you all must do service through the Sai organizations - service not to me, but service to the people and communities of the country. Having been born in this sacred country of Barath (India) where today injustices, unkindness, cruelty, and everything bad are flourishing, I am hoping that you will be able to spread the ideals of Sai amongst the people of this country. Whatever obstacles you may meet, whatever troubles may come your way, do not be afraid. I am here. I am here. This is Truth. This is Truth.

Students, you are only listening to the words and the talk of Swami. You are seeing the leelas, but you have not been able to recognize the strength and power behind Swami. You only think that he gives articles like rings or necklaces and so on. But these are very small. These are only a minor fraction of the strength and power that I have. If the need arises, I can turn the earth into sky and the sky into the earth. That is an easy thing. But my greatest of all strengths

is the strength of Love. Those who have earned that grace and that love are really of very great level. I am hoping that you will yearn to get that kind of love and that kind of grace. I am hoping that you will make your effort in that path. The first thing you should do is service to the people around you and to the country. You should recognize the aspect of Sarveswara (Almighty Lord) who is present in all living things. Your work is not completed now. When you return home you must undertake service to the people through the Seva (service) Samithi or through one or another of the Sai organizations. Whatever troubles you get into at any time, think of me from the depth of your heart and you will find me there. Keep such experiences in your mind. Carry them with you wherever you go. Make the determination to do service from the bottom of your heart.



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