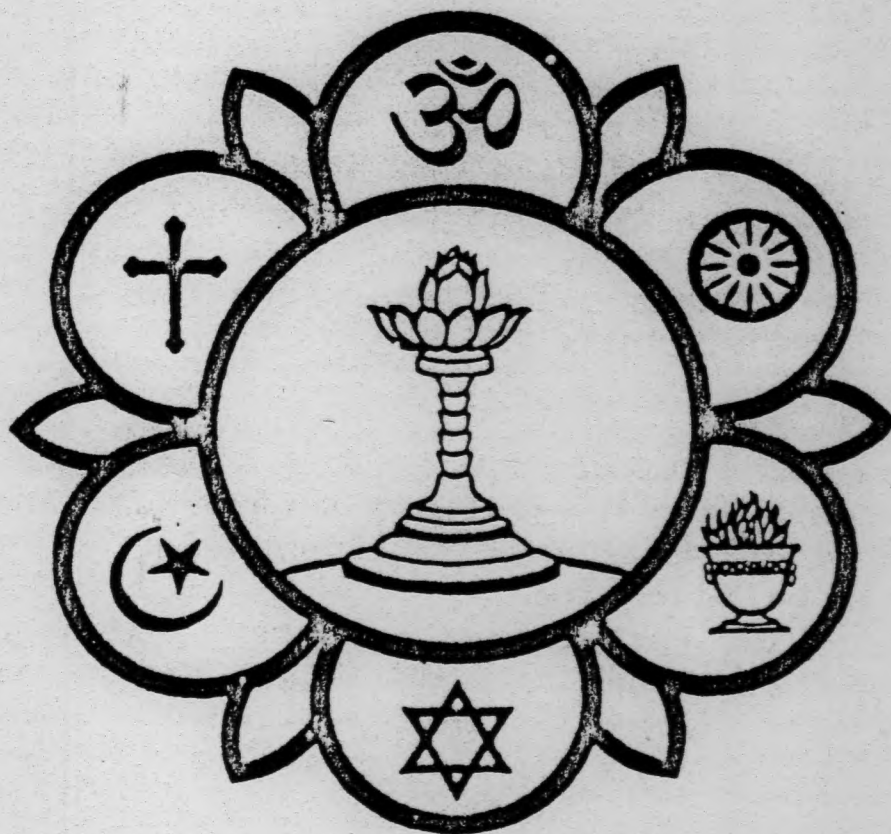


SATHYA S NEWSLETTER

Sathya Sai Newsletter
1800 E. Garvey Avenue
West Covina, CA 91791



SPRING 1980

VOLUME 4, NO. 3

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

QUOTATION FROM SRI SATHYA SAI BABA



What is the goal of human life? What is the objective that man must realize? Is it just eating, drinking, sleeping, tasting a little joy and grief and finally dying like any bird or beast? No, certainly not, a little thought will reveal that it is not so. The goal is Brahmasakshatkara, the realization of the Absolute, of Brahman (the eternal absolute). Without that, no man can attain Santhi (peace). He must win that Bliss of Divine Grace. However much one strives to extract happiness from the multiplicity of worldly things the quantum of satisfaction is very little, and, as for Peace or Santhi, one finds it impossible to get that through things of the world. The mind can have peace only when it merges in the Absolute Consciousness, the Primal Cause, the unchanging existence.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SATHYA SAI BABA COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS

1980 WORLD CONFERENCE IN INDIA

The Third World Conference of Sathya Sai Organizations will be held at Prasanthi Nilayam, India on November 19-21, 1980. There will be representatives from the worldwide Sai organizations and a very large number of delegates from the Indian associations. All American Sathya Sai Baba Centers have been informed of the delegate selection rules and are choosing a maximum of five representatives per Center to attend. At this time, we do not know if "Observers" will be permitted at the Conference.

Many people have called to ask "What is a World Conference?" and what might they expect. In answering I am reminded of something Bhagavan once said when asked about some of the organizational details of the management of Prasanthi Nilayam. His reply was that unlike what one might see or do in any other type of organization operating in the world, at Prasanthi Nilayam EVERYTHING was done with the spiritual aspect as the prime motivator. The spiritual atmosphere and benefits to the visitor is the deciding factor, rather than the usual goals of worldly efficiency.

This perspective should be kept in mind with the coming World Conference. Unlike a typical "Western Conference" with a heavy and detailed agenda overshadowing all (except, perhaps, the food and entertainment) the Conference is an opportunity to experience the Divine Presence along with thousands of others who share the same involvement, inspiration and dedication to the ideals of the Sai Organizations. In addition, there will be discourses, bhajans and much more culminating in the 55th Birthday Celebration of Bhagavan.

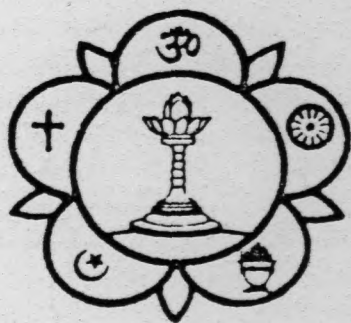
The opportunity to meet and learn firsthand about the activities of members of Sai Organizations worldwide is invaluable. Particularly for Americans who have 60 Centers spread over 50 states. It is especially uplifting to feel so strongly a part of the Worldwide Sai Family and to make contact with its representatives.

At this date we have no additional details about the Conference, but each Center will be sent more information as it is received. Those planning to attend should keep in mind that the crowds at Prasanthi Nilayam during this period will be very large, that accommodations (there were as many as eight people to a room in 1975) will only be available for actual delegates, and that the Conference is not a time

for close personal contact with Bhagavan. Also, those with health problems should consider that physical comfort will be minimal or nonexistent.

If you wish to contact the main headquarters in India, the World Conference Office is located at 82 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Bombay, 400 018 INDIA.

Richard Bayer
Vice President



From this moment avoid all bad habits. Do not delay or postpone. they do not contribute the least joy.

THY KINGDOM COME

The tree is known by its fruits. Thus it is that the gaze of the devotees and observers of Bhagavan is turned at the products of the colleges established by Him.

It is a well-known fact that no section of the community receives as much of His attention and care as do the students and staff of the Sri Sathya Sai Colleges at Whitefield and Prasanthi Nilayam. Anyone who has followed Bhagavan's life with even a little interest knows that, for the past decade, these supremely fortunate 'boys' have been made an integral part of the Avatar's daily routine. In fact, references to the boys as the modern-day counterparts of the 'monkey brigades' of Sri Rama in the Tretha Yuga or the 'cowherd playmates' of Sri Krishna in the Dwapara Yuga do not seem very far-fetched even to the most impersonal onlooker.

Bhagavan Himself, in this context, is fond of singing a verse in His mellifluous Telugu, an English rendering of which runs as follows:

That Ramachandra (another name for Lord Rama) has come now as the full moon of the bliss-grove to sport with His dear ones,

That Son of Nanda (foster father of Krishna) has come now as the darling child of delight in quest of His playmates,---

At this stage, a word of caution will not be out of place. Although it may not be presumptuous to assume that Bhagavan alludes to His boys when He sings this remarkable verse, it would be invidious to claim that a few hundred young men have a total monopoly of the precious years the Lord has condescended to bestow on mankind. Bhagavan, who is the Divine Response to the accumulated yearning of the seekers of all the ages, is not here for a mere few; He has avowed that the whole mass of humanity shall be flooded by a sea of joy in this earthly sojourn of His.

Then, what makes the boys click, one may well query in a modern metaphor. The answer is not far to seek. In days as these when everything is evaluated in terms of its growth potential, the contemporary Avatar, too, seems bent upon a long-term investment! The wise gardener may not neglect any of his varied blooms but has a soft eye for the buds yet to blossom. So too, the Divine Strategist knows that for His message to go far, the carriers must have substantial opportunity to live it and spread it. There is nothing that Bhagavan enjoys more than transforming indifferent, recalcitrant, wayward juveniles into sincere, obedient, resolute

youth. The Divine Potter takes supreme delight in moulding the unfashioned clay of young, vibrant life into sculptural marvels. This greatest Teacher the world has ever known is, first and foremost, a Youth Redeemer. And so it is, in the words of the poet, "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive--and to be young was very Heaven!"

The Avatar has traditionally two objectives to achieve; the promotion of goodness and the destruction of evil. In the previous ages, men could be categorized as being either good or bad. Therefore, the Avatar's task then consisted in blessing the good men and killing the bad ones. In the present Kali era, as Bhagavan says, there is no one wholly noble or totally evil. Were the Kaliyuga Avatar to act by precedent, there would be no one left alive in today's world. This makes Bhagavan's task much more complex, for He has now to promote goodness and destroy the evil in each individual's heart.

It is perhaps in this context that the boys obtain their relevance, inasmuch as they are not as polluted by the foul winds of the world as men of the older generation, and Bhagavan's seemingly inexplicable affinity for the youth can be justified. His reposing of trust and hope in the young is vindicated by the freshness of their minds and the impeccability of their hearts. Since, in any case, there are few in any age-group--who deserve the Lord's special attention purely on the basis of merit (as probably the sages and seers of yore deserved) the Avatar is pleased to correct first those whose mental aberrations and perversions haven't yet been deeply set. For the fabrication of the superstructure needed for His Mission, the Divine Mechanic prefers raw, unalloyed metal.

It would be foolish to attempt to gauge the magnitude of the debt that these young boys owe to Bhagavan. Bhagavan just doesn't change the life of the fractious, errant youth; He confers on him a fresh new life. His Mercy ensures that those who were not even worth the dust they are made of, are overnight worth their weight in gold. By His Grace, the thought-processes of the youth are modified, their value-systems are enriched and their intellects illumined. The alchemy of His Love transmutes the base metal of their hearts into gold.

Looking after their material well-being as well as their spiritual welfare, Bhagavan protects His boys as the eye-lid guards the eye. Making them aware of the ultimate goal of life and taking them near it, He not only rescues them from perdition in this life but also

saves them from the dreadful prospect of further lives in this world. Childlike innocence coupled with sagelike maturity is the world-saving prescription for today's ills and Bhagavan offers precisely this in the form of His boys. Their adolescence becomes a period of divine incandescence; and their youth, to quote Bhagavan Himself, *a flame of life striving for the highest attainment.*

And, as the outside world fixes its gaze on the students, past and present, of the Sri Sathya Sai Colleges, there are a few questions that it seeks answers for. Time alone shall reply to such queries, but let it be humbly put on record that the 'boys' shall prove to the world that they are not mere prattlers. The graduates coming out of the portals of Bhagavan's colleges at Whitefield and Prasanthi Nilayam shall demonstrate that they are not a species of greenhouse plants ready to dehydrate and wither once placed under the blaze of the outer world. The 'street lights' that were once 'street dogs' shall burn brightly, and for a long time.

In conclusion, Archbishop Fulton Sheen's analysis of Jesus Christ's tutoring of his apostles in his well-known 'Life of Christ' seems more apt than anything else: "He bade rather insignificant men to take an almost cosmic view of their mission, for on them would He build His Kingdom. These chosen lights were to cast their rays over the rest of humanity, in all nations."

- - - - -At Last!

Felicity at home without domestic strife,
Honesty in all walks of life.

Political Sanity
Economic equality
Social unity
Spiritual unity
Spiritual non-duality

The East and the West---
a meeting of the twain!

Together they rest---
the humble and the vain.

The correct reliance
on the modern and the ancient.

A fruitful alliance
between matter and the sentient.

Scientific method from a spiritual base,
Selfless actions at an inspired pace.

Joy in the heart,
the world at peace.

Each man a part
of the Universal Bliss.

The Avatar's Army--
a triumphant band.

Rejoice!

The Kingdom of Sathya Sai
is at hand!

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



BHAJAN MESSAGE

Bhajan induces in you a desire for experiencing 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. One has only to be reminded that he is divine. Exercises like Bhajan elevates the mind and exhorts the individual to seek and find the source of eternal joy that lies within him.

Sathya Sai Speaks, vol. 7

Let us focus our attention and efforts on achieving unity in our Bhajan singing. Together we have reached the point where the learning process is easier. We have an increasing number of Bhajan leaders; our meetings go smoothly and are a joy. Now we can work at unifying and strengthening what we have. Bhajans are truly uplifting when all sing as one voice, and when personalities and unreal differences melt away in the unified expression of love for God.

With new Bhajan books and tapes available, and so many of us traveling to India and bringing back new holy songs, we can learn quite a lot. However, the aim is not to learn so many, but to know well a sufficient number that the membership can follow. When singing alone to the Lord, it is only devotion that matters. When singing in a group, another element is involved and that is the element of service. Whether leading the Bhajans or following with the chorus, let's try to sing so that others will enjoy it more. Leaders should know the songs well enough to sing with confidence and ease. When the melody and words are clear, when a steady lively rhythm is maintained, and most important, when the devotion expressed is sweet, reverent and joyous, then all will be more able to participate. At the same time, it is the duty of those who follow (including the other Bhajan leaders) to make the same effort. We inspire and support each other in reaching for our common goal. Let's all be absorbed in adoring the Lord without distraction and as one. Then we may experience the bliss of unity.

Let us sing to the Lord with such selfless love and devotion that He will not be able to resist! Bhajan singing is a group sadhana that allows us to rise above the personalities that limit us. With the aim of pleasing Him, we feel grateful for chances to serve and sacrifice. It is service to consider the happiness of the group first. This may mean not singing a Bhajan that is difficult for the group

to follow, especially at open meetings, regional meetings and retreats. It might also mean singing in pairs for fullness and volume, and to give more members a chance to lead. When several members enjoy playing instruments such as finger cymbals, tambourines, etc., those who are best qualified can alternate. We can listen and be sure that the instruments are not too loud for the singers. We can also serve by considering whether we add more to the spirit and quality of the Bhajan by leading or by following. It is devotion that reaches Him, no matter if it is expressed in leading a Bhajan or adding to the fullness and resonance of the chorus. We are serving the members of our Centers and must do so, as Baba says, in the way that gives satisfaction to those we serve - and causes them no discomfort!

Let those with a good voice and musical talent lead; the Keertan (Bhajan) must be pleasant, it should not jar on the ear. If your voice is grating or out of tune, do not disturb the melody but repeat the Bhajan in your mind. Sing so that the full significance of each Name is evident to the hearers. Do not repeat each line more than twice; let there be time. . . for a variety of Namavalis (Bhajans) dealing with many forms and manifestations of God. . . It is the feeling in the heart that is the crucial test.

Sathya Sai Speaks, vol. 7



SAI FAMILY EVENT

PRE EASTER RETREAT

Last April 4th and 5th Sri Sathya Sai Baba followers from the New York area gathered together in Dover Plains for spiritual expression. Their sadhana consisted of observing SAI-lence, the quiet broken only by the singing of bhajans. Several Indian devotees gave generously of their time and talents to instruct in the chanting of holy songs.

The small group of less than 100 returned to their homes from the New York City Mission Camp with a feeling of joyousness and inner peace. That Easter Sunday, April 6, was particularly meaningful to those who participated in the retreat for they carried with them a feeling of love which radiated to family and friends.

FOR WOMEN

Women must be given education in a well planned manner. She must be able to understand the problems of the country. She must render such service and help as she can, within limits of her resources and capacity, to the country, the community and the family. No nation can be built except on the culture of its women. The coming generation is shaped by the mothers of today; this generation is so full of adharmā (without righteousness) and injustice, because the mothers who brought it up were not vigilant and intelligent enough. Well! what is past is past. To save at least the next generation, women have to be warned in time and guided, to take the ancients as their model.

Past, present or future, for all time, women are the backbone of progress; the heart of the nation, the very breath. They play the chief role in the dharma of life here below, a key role that is charged with holiness. Her mission is to lay down the cannons of rightness and morality. She must provide children with moral and spiritual training. When the mother is imbued with Dharma, the children get the benefit and they get similarly saturated. When she is skilled in morals, the children learn to be moral. Therefore, the level of education among women decides whether a country is to prosper or decline. Her acts and conduct are crucial factors.

A NOTE ON SEMANTICS

It was decided at the last Directors meeting of the Sathya Sai Baba Council of the Americas (Summer 1979) that all Bal Vikas in the United States will be called "Bal Vikas Children's Group or Organization". It was thought that in that way it will seem less foreign to Americans who are unfamiliar with Sanskrit terms, and clearly explain the function of that group. Also, "Seva" is now being called "Service" for the same reason.

SUGGESTIONS FOR OFFERING SERVICE

Seva (service) is the most important path which enables us to recognize the principle of oneness. We should undertake to help those who are in trouble, those who are in distress, those who are forlorn and helpless, and, thereby, we should cultivate the attitude of selfless service.

Baba

1. Ascertain who the most needy individuals are in your community. It is not our goal to make the poor rich because this is impossible.
2. The idea is to give some joy, comfort and support to persons in need, in the Name of God.
3. Avoid questionable groups or organizations.
4. Avoid projects that are too complex.
5. Do not collect money for projects that need funding.
6. Any project undertaken should be a credit to Swami's Name and carried out with the highest discrimination.
7. It is a general feeling that we should act independently as a Sai Center instead of joining a larger organization.
8. The Council has voted to use the word Service rather than Seva to avoid confusion.

SERVICE SOURCES

1. Hospitals
2. Orphanages
3. Retirement Centers
4. Doctors
5. Welfare Offices
6. Newspapers
7. Friends
8. Churches
9. Community Centers
10. Schools

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Teach your children the habit of daily prayer, when they rise from bed and when they lie down to sleep after the day is over. Do so yourself. You will find that it adds calm and content.

MORNING PRAYER

Oh Lord I awake now from my sleep. I'm determined to carry out all my work this day as offerings to thee, with thee ever present before my mind's eye. Make my thoughts, words and deeds sacred and pure. Let me hurt no one and let no one hurt me. Direct me and guide me this day dear Lord. OM SAI RAM.

EVENING PRAYERS FOR FORGIVENESS

Oh Lord, kindly forgive my wrong actions done knowingly or unknowingly, either through my organs of action (hands, feet, speech) or through my organs of perception (ears, eyes) or by my mind. Glory unto thee Oh Lord, who is the ocean of kindness.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

THE STONE BIRD

Dear Jake:

How are you, I am fine. Well I had another adventure. This time, it was really exciting. There used to be four big old stone birds on top of Sai Baba's house, you know, the Mandir. Now there are only three.



One day I was playing cars in the sand in the courtyard. Mom was in the Prayer Hall praying to Sai Baba about something. I looked up to see this big old stone bird flap his wings and - - CRASH! He landed right in front of me.

"Where you from, Kid?" he asked.

"Ojai," I said. He made me a little nervous.

"Where are you from?"

"Right up there," he gestured with the tip of his wing.

"You don't sound very Indian," I said.

"I'm from Vegas, you know Las Vegas, or I was in my last life before I got wasted."

"Wasted? What's wasted," I asked.

"You know, plugged, bumped off. Don't you watch T.V., Kid?"

"We don't have a T.V. Do you mean you were murdered?"

"Right."

"Gosh, well, what are you doing here?"

"Same as everybody. I'm here for Darshan. Baba's Darshan can save even me. I get to see Him twice a day when He comes outside and when this life is finished, with His Grace, I'll get born as a person again. So, hop on my back, kid, I'll take you anywhere you want to go."

"I don't know. Mom wouldn't like for me to leave the Ashram."

"Aw -- come on kid -- I don't get off that roof much and maybe it'll be a chance to do a good deed for someone and earn Baba's Grace."

"Well, okay -- you want to fly to the top of the stoopa?" The stoopa is a big concrete pillar with a lotus flower on the top.

"Well, okay, jump on my back and take hold of the feathers on my head."

So up we went, clanging to a halt on the top of the lotus flower stoopa.

"Here we are, kid. Not a bad landing for a stone bird. My name's Garuda, formerly Nick. You can call me Nick."

"My name's Frankie," I said. "Gee, you can see all around from up here. There's the Gokulum where Sai Baba's elephant Sai Geetha lives and over there is the old village of Puttapartti where He was born. This is fun. Look, coming from that Shiva temple in the old village is a lot of red smoke!"

"Yeah -- hop on my back again and we'll investigate."

"Well, I don't know --"

"Sure, don't worry. We'll hurry because I won't miss Darshan for anything," Nick said. "Maybe it has something to do with demons. I've come into this life to chase away demons."

"Gosh really! What's a demon?" Already I was getting excited.

"Oh, a demon is just a very bad thing -- like a very bad person or animal -- like a gangster in Vegas."

"Do they have demons in Sai Baba Land?" I asked.

"No, but they'd sure like to try to get in here. They try to ruin anything that's good."

"Well," I said, "I'm not afraid because I know that Sai Baba will keep them all away."

We tilted a little one way and then the other and then CLANG THUD CRASH, we landed.

"I've got to remember to bring my toes up on those landings," Nick muttered along with some other words I didn't understand.

There, in front of the Shiva temple, was Nandi, Shiva's bull. He was all silver with red fire snorting out of his nose and eyes. Boy, was he upset!

"What's happening, Nandi?" Nick asked.

"Shiva's Lingam," snorted Nandi. "The Lingam was stolen by a demon! Om Namah Shivya, Om Namah Shivya, Oh Shiva will scold me when He finds out!" wailed the bull.

"What's a Lingam?" I asked.

"Oh, it's a beautiful round egg like object and it's very powerful. I'm supposed to guard it for Lord Shiva," cried the bull.

"Are you sure a demon got it? Nick asked.

"Oh yes, he came just now. He was green and orange and purple with red eyes and long black claws. Oh, and he had just a little touch of pink on his tummy. What else but a demon could be that tacky? He came sneaking up to the Temple on tippy toes and blew a cloud of smoke right inside. It stung my eyes and while I was trying to see, and before I could even say, Om Namah Shivya, the Lingam was gone. Oh, woe is me!"

"Yeah, you really dropped the ball, Nandi," Nick said.

"Yes, and I lost the Lingam too!" Nandi started to weep. His eyes got even redder.

"Oh, Nick," I said, "Don't make him feel so bad. Besides don't you see, Sai Baba has given you a chance to do a good deed."

"Wow, far out, kid! Whichway did the demon go, Nandi?"

"East - over those mountains. I wish I could fly with you."

"Never mind, Nandi, I'm really doing it for Sathya Sai Baba." And off we went.

"I looked down as we flew over the Ashram and could see where all the people usually gather to wait for Baba to come out.

"I'm not missing Darshan am I, Nick?" I asked anxiously.

"Of course not, no one seems to be out there yet," he answered.

Up we flew over the mountains and towards the sun. Suddenly, down below, we saw a very large dragon-like demon. It really was green and orange and purple. I couldn't see it's tummy, but when we swooped down, we could see about 100 demons who all looked alike.

Nick said, "That's it, kid - it was a nice idea but --

"Don't be afraid, Nick, all you need is Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Grace and He'll take care of us. Please don't act like a coward!

"But, I was always a coward. Why do you think I carried a gun? But you're right, kid, I've got Sai Baba now!

"Hey, look, Nick, there's a bluish glow coming out of the cave there below. It must be the Lingam. We can fly in real quick and grab it and take off again."

Well, we tried it but Nick forgot to bring up his toes again and we tipped over and I fell off.

The demons came running in, filling the cave. They screamed and yelled and wiggled all around us.

"Do you have a touch of pink on your tummy?" I asked.

"Yes, that's because we're sooooo hungry," they snarled and opened the biggest mouths I've ever seen.

That did it. I was really scared. Then, I remembered something Mom always told me that Baba's name is like a life preserver when you're in water over your head. . . So, I started really yelling, "Sai Ram, Sai Ram, Sai Ram."

Suddenly, there was a high squealing noise and a red-orange light filled the cave. Sai Baba was there! Only not just one Baba but a hundred Sathya Sai Babas. Each one was tall as the roof and with arms and legs moving in all directions, He was twisting and turning on the top of every demon just like Nataraj, the dancer. It was all over for the demons. Baba merged into one form and took the Lingum.

"Oh, thank you Lord," Nick said. "We would have been wasted for sure."

"Not wasted," said the Lord, "Nothing is wasted."

"We promised Nandi we'd get the Lingam for Shiva," I explained.

"I am Shiva," said Baba and granted us a divine vision of Lord Shiva, sitting cross-legged on an animal skin, with the moon and the

Goddess Ganga, in His hair and the hissing cobra around His neck. We both fell at His feet, and when we looked up, there was Sri Sathya Sai Baba again.

"Lord, will you grant me the Grace to be a human person again?" asked Nick. "Did I earn enough high points on this trip?"

"You can't earn Grace like a game of cards, Bangaru."

Sai Baba only calls a person "Bangaru" when they are precious to Him.

"You have my grace because you are my son. I'm pleased with you for taking care of Frankie. When you serve my devotee, you are serving Me, Baba put His arms around the stone bird and patted him. Then, a big old tear came out of the stony eye and trickled down his beak, then, another and another until the big bird just melted down to a puddle at the Lotus Feet of the Lord.



Suddenly, I was back at the Ashram sitting in the courtyard waiting for Darshan.

"Whatever happened to that sone bird on top of the Mandir?" I heard two ladies asking outside in the courtyard.

"Odds are, they's never believe it," I said to myself and that was the end of my adventure.

THIRD MIDWEST REGIONAL SAI BABA CONFERENCE

Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-26
Lake Villa, Illinois (Chicago area)

Return the following information to:

Allan Woods, Registrar
28 Robert Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63135
(314) 524-0345

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Cabin or Camping: _____

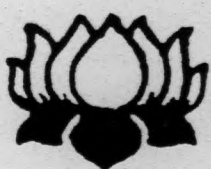
Children's names and ages: _____

Cost: \$40 for adults, \$20 for children age 3-7, no charge for infants.
(Includes vegetarian meals, lodging or camping)

This year's conference includes prominent guest speakers, movies,
bhajans and special programs for children.

Enclosed is my check/money order for \$ _____ to reserve
_____ places at the conference.

Additional conference information and map will be sent upon receipt
of your reservation.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL SAI BABA RETREAT

May 23-25 - Friday Evening to Sunday Noon

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Nagarsankirtan, eight hour bhajan, group discussions, guest speakers, bal vikas children's activities, films, meditation and vedantic spirituality.

The vegetarian menu consists of meals on Saturday morning, noon, night and Sunday morning and noon.

LOCATION:

The Cottontail Ranch in the Malibu Canyon, California.

COST:

Adults, \$25 Children, \$15

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Send self addressed stamped business size envelope to:

Mr. Robert Rinehart
777 N. Indian Hill Blvd.
Claremont, CA 91711
(714) 626-8418

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

S.A.I. RETREAT - and send to the above address

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Children's names and ages: _____

MIRACLE OF LOVE

Sai Baba's miraculous powers and cures rolled off the pages of, Sai Baba Man of Miracles, one right after another as I sat reading. I wondered, "Why do so many people get extraordinary healings and not me?" "Don't I deserve one?" I consciously asked Baba for the first time, to help me walk normally again in full health.

My illness began six years ago. Diagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis with no known cure. For two years I had been on crutches, the following year my health improved and then gradually joint problems increased over the next two years until I was almost to the point of having to use a wheelchair.

Pondering over the reasons for the illness and what could be done to correct the condition, I felt Sathya Sai Baba's presence and that He would help me. As the following days blended into weeks and the weeks into months I went within and prayed. I read Baba's teachings and meditated on them.

Baba again and again taught people that they were the cause of their own suffering. Diseases and other problems can be helped and even permanently restored to health through the mental peace, calm, love and devotion that Sai's presence and teachings evoke. Love and devotion are the best medicine, He would tell devotees. Through His teachings I saw how it was necessary for me to give up my attachments to the body and to face the experience of pleasure or pain with an attitude of equanimity. I saw that one should be able to go through the ups and downs of the earthly dimension knowing that only Atma (the indwelling God) is real in the changing forms of the universe.

I also learned that it is important to be able to control one's feelings and thoughts as well as one's actions. Pure thoughts, feelings and deeds will create a pure body and feeling of well being. My negative thoughts began to change and a feeling of love and contentment took its place.

For the past year I had been hoping to go to India to be with Sri Sathya Sai Baba and had twice come close to making the trip. Some devotees from the Sai Center where I live were planning to make the journey in November 1979, and they were eager to help me go. When October came and I still was on crutches, barely able to walk from the house to the car, it didn't seem that this body was going to be able to travel. I was once again disappointed.

I told myself it didn't matter as I felt Sathya Sai within and He was helping and teaching me where ever I was. Earlier in the summer after requesting Baba's help I had gone to an acupuncturist who prescribed herbs for my condition. The night before I went to the acupuncturist I dreamed that Sai Baba put me on a yellow bus to go for a healing. The next day when I got to the doctor's office which was in a yellow building I felt there was a connection. Weeks later I found out that this doctor was treating many Sathya Sai Baba followers and that he was planning to go to India himself that winter. I felt confirmation that Baba was indeed helping and directing me even though He was thousands of miles away on the other side of the world. On one level I knew it was not necessary to be physically with Him yet I yearned to have His darshan (to see the actual form) at least once.

On the full moon in October which fell on a Thursday night, a bhajan (the singing of holy songs) night, I did not feel up to going to the Sathya Sai Baba Center so I put on a tape to sing at home. My mind for the past couple of days had been intensely active. I recalled Baba saying that *The mind should fully reflect Atma (the indwelling God) as the moon fully reflects the sun.* As I sang the bhajans my mind started flowing over a chain of events that had happened and I saw for the first time how I had been effected by them. I saw that what had seemed to be tragic, painful and regrettable experiences had given an understanding and opportunity that was infinitely valuable and perfect for my wholeness. I started to feel very happy, and when I was half way through Arathi (the last holy song) I burst into laughter. It was so funny how caught up in the game of life I had become. My struggling on crutches, my feelings of intense tragedy--it was all a comedy. I felt bliss and could only laugh about these events. Immersed in gratitude and awe toward Baba I thanked Him for bestowing His blessings.

That night sleep did not come and I was taken through an intense mixture of emotions. I kept bursting out laughing, so great was the joyous relief from the past anguish and heartache. Then suddenly I began to be very tired, and wondered why this was happening now after feeling so good. I tried to go deep within to find out what was there. I then felt only fear and terror, as if my body were in the grip of an invincible entity. I was almost paralyzed so great was the fear. Fear of what? . . . of death, of obliteration? I tried to reassure myself that it could only be this body that would die, that the real me could

never die. That thought spun in my mind, but the panic was still there at a primal level. All of a sudden I was getting angry, ready to lash out in an attempt to protect myself. Was this the best way to deal with this threatening force? "Oh God, Baba, what should I do?" I called out Baba's name again and again in the midst of the terrifying fear. Very soon I felt Baba's presence within me firmly saying, *Never fear, I am here.* There was a flood of light and energy in my heart, mind and body. *Perfect love does cast out all fear.*

At last the deep terror of the past was dissolving into the light. I slept peacefully and in the morning was confident as never before, all anxiety was gone. I put my crutches down and ran from the house. It was the first time I had walked without them in five months. I ran calling out in gratitude and fell on my knees in thankfulness for all He had given me. I wanted to fall at His feet so I drove to the Sai Center where there is a picture of His feet.

When I reached that location the two Baba devotees in whose home the Center is located were very happy to see me walking again. They were, just that day, sending for their visas to travel to India. I had just enough money to pay for the ticket. Not knowing when or how the rest of the money for the journey would come yet feeling that I must go, I joined in the travel preparations. Since then the funds have arrived for the journey. We leave next week for Baba's ashram at Prasanthi Nilayam in South India.

Yes, I feel that the Lord has given a miracle by helping me walk again, and in the understanding and support I have received from the people at our Sathya Sai Baba Center who are the living proof of Baba's miracle of love.

Please share your own experiences with our readers. No names
will be used and we reserve the right to edit all material.
Send to: Sathya Sai Newsletter, 6804 North Joshua Tree Ln.,
Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253.

SAI FAMILY CASSETTE TAPES, FILMS AND VIDEO TAPES

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

Sathya Sai Baba Center of Hollywood
7911 Willoughby Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90046
(213) 656-9373

NEW CASSETTE TAPES NOW AVAILABLE

1. SC-009 SAI AVATAR BHAJANS with Janet Bock and the New Delhi Singers. In stereo, 60 minutes, at a cost of \$5.00.
2. SC-010 SATHYA SAI COLLEGE BOYS SING BHAJANS recorded in Brindivan, India on December 1979, 60 minutes at a cost of \$5.00.
3. BHAJANAVALI Five cassette tapes done in coordination with the BHAJANAVALI BHAJAN SONG BOOK printed in India and available at the Hollywood Center. The book is \$1.50 and each cassette is 60 minutes at a cost of \$4.00 each.

C-040 Bhajans A-G

C-042 Bhajans J-N

C-041 Bhajans G-J

C-043 Bhajans O-R

C-044 Bhajans S-Y

The complete set consists of approximately 180 Bhajans, is sung by devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, and recorded in India.

4. C-045 SATHYA SAI BABA DISCOURSE ON SPIRITUALITY IN DAILY LIFE, PART I recorded in Bangalore, India December 9, 1979, 60 minutes at a cost of \$4.00. English interpretation by Dr. Bhagavantam.
5. C-046 SATHYA SAI BABA DISCOURSE ON SPIRITUALITY IN DAILY LIFE, PART II recorded in Bangalore, India December 10, 1979, 60 minutes at a cost of \$4.00 English interpretation by Dr. Bhagavantam.



NEW FILMS NOW AVAILABLE

AURA OF DIVINITY

PART I THE NATURE OF THE AVATAR AS FORETOLD BY THE ANCIENT PROPHECIES Super 8 sound, 36 minutes, two 400 foot reels, at a cost of \$165.

The PART I film also available in optical sound, 36 minutes, one 1600 foot reel at a cost of \$275, 16 mm.

PART II THE NATURE OF THE AVATAR AS EXPLAINED IN THE WORDS OF BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA Super 8 sound, 36 minutes, two 400 foot reels at a cost of \$165.

The PART II film also available in optical sound, 36 minutes, one 1600 foot reel at a cost of \$275, 16 mm.

VIDEO TAPE CASSETTES FIRST TIME AVAILABLE

VC-1 SATHYA SAI BABA, HIS LIFE IS HIS MESSAGE - - - THE MESSAGE I BRING - - - CELEBRATION, 50TH BIRTHDAY The three films comprise a two hour program to be shown on home televisions with video playback units. The 120 minute (2 hour) VHS 1/2 inch at a cost of \$139. The 120 minute (2 hour) BETAMAX 1/2 inch at a cost of \$139.

PAL-M FOREIGN SYSTEM VIDEO CASSETTES AVAILABLE write to the Sathya Sai Baba Center of Hollywood for information.



Faith in ourselves and faith in God, that is the secret of greatness for God is Love.

THE CONCERNED TRAVELER

It has once again been brought to the attention of the Newsletter staff that certain unethical individuals, both in India and the United States, have been soliciting money in the name of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This includes persons who visit Centers claiming to be sent by Swami. As all devotees know, Bhagavan does not send people to collect funds or tangible goods, and please use discrimination if approached by anyone claiming to represent Sai Baba.

Please consider also the words that Swami said to a devotee from the United States while visiting the ashram in India.

*There are many Americans who are selling cameras and tape recorders.
This is not good!*

As most travelers to India should know, the sale of such items is illegal, and reflects poorly on the ideals that Sri Sathya Sai Baba establishes for all.

In January of this year, Bhagavan opened a canteen offering refreshments for Westerners all day long. He, at the same time, provided a place on the ashram grounds where people are allowed to smoke (even though He has made His views on smoking very clear) and there are now shops available inside Prasanthi Nilayam, all these things done with love and for the convenience of foreign visitors.

It becomes more obvious that Baba does not wish His devotees to go out into the village where they confront worldly activity thus losing their one pointedness and may be diverted from the Godward path. He is reminding His children also to come to India "prepared" and not become a burden, financial or otherwise, to the Indian people, or to those at the two ashrams.



Truth is the all protesting God, there is no mightier guardian than truth.

SAI FAMILY BOOKS

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Book
Center of America
P. O. Box 278
Tustin, CA 92680
Telephone (714) 835-5206

New Books at the Book Center are as follows:

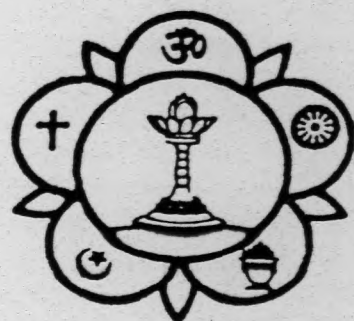
1. SPIRITUALITY IN DAY TO DAY LIVING: A pocket book size, 60 page booklet with guiding excerpts from discourses by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Priced at 60¢.
2. STORIES FOR CHILDREN AND GUIDELINES FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS: Divine message for the Gurus, technique of story telling, child psychology, prayers and sutras, and stories. Priced at \$1.25.
3. BAL VIKAS ADMINISTRATION (formerly Bal Vikas Guru): Guidelines for Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Gurus in Bal Vikas administration and training. Priced at \$1.50.
4. SPIRITUAL SEVA SADHANA: Compilation of Sri Sathya Sai Baba discourses at the Conference of the representatives of all the units of the Sathya Sai Organizations, held at Prasanthi Nilayam. Priced at \$1.70.
5. QUEST FOR DIVINITY: Musings of a surgeon on the sublime in man, by V. K. Pillay, Orthopedic Surgeon and Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore. Priced at 55¢.
6. TALKS WITH BAL VIKAS STUDENTS: Discussion of personal habits and unity of faiths (author not given). Priced at 70¢.
7. MY SPIRITUAL DIARY: A 12-month record for Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas. Priced at 25¢.
8. PRIMER FOR SRI SATHYA SAI BAL VIKAS STUDENTS-GROUP I: Book of prayers and other information for children, ages 6 through 9 years. Priced at 50¢.
9. PRIMER FOR SRI SATHYA SAI BAL VIKAS STUDENTS-GROUP II: Information on Suprabhatham, Gayatri, Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Namasmaran, etc.; 14 chapters in all, for young people, ages 10 through 13 years. Priced at 90¢.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE BOOKS

Some of Baba's books translated in German are available through the
Sathya Sai Baba Center of
Charlotte-Gastonia
3000 Whitson Road
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
Telephone (704) 866-9955

At the present time there are two volumes:

1. SUMMER SHOWERS IN BRINDAVAN 1972 at \$3.50.
2. SUMMER SHOWERS IN BRINDAVAN 1973 at \$3.50.



God is not involved in either rewards or punishments. He only 'reflects', 're-sounds' and 're-acts'. He is the eternal witness. You decide your own fate. God has no will or want. He does not confer or withhold. He is like the Postman who is unconcerned with the contents of the letters that he hands over to the addressees. A letter might communicate victory, another defeat; you receive what you have worked for. Do good and have good, in return; be bad and accept the bad that comes back to you. That is the law and there is really no help or hindrance.

A vertical sequence of ten black footprints arranged in a zig-zag pattern, descending from the top to the bottom of the page. The footprints are stylized, showing the general shape of a foot and the distinct impressions of the toes. On the left margin, fragments of text are visible, including "ch", "he", "d", "e", "e", "ned", "o", "st", "e.", "ous", "ts", and "known".

SATHYA SAI BABA DIRECTORS AND CENTERS

DIRECTORS OF THE SATHYA SAI BABA COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS

There is a new Regional Director of the Sathya Sai Baba Council of the Americas. Welcome to:

- DR. LOUIS A. MUNIZ, Aniceto Ortega #808, Colonia del Valle, MEXICO 12, D.F.

There is a new phone number for Director:

- MR. TERRY PAYNE (916) 938-4001

PRECED EACH LOCATION WITH SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF:

Accidently deleted from February 1980 list

- BURLINGTON, VERMONT, Marsha Abrams, 99 Nashville Road, Jericho, Vermont 05465, (802) 899-3303, Bhajans and Study Circle: Friday, 6:30 P.M.

Delete from February 1980 list:

Nashville, Tennessee

Madison, Wisconsin

Change:

- MT. SHASTA, CALIFORNIA TO: SISKIYOU COUNTY, Virginia Field, Post Office Box 783, Weed, California 96094, (916) 938-4031, Bhajans: Thursday 7 P.M. - Bhajans/Study Circle: Sunday 6 P.M.

Address changes:

- ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA: June Weaver, 526 W. 7th St., Escondido, California 92025, (714) 745-5137.
- LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA: Wynona Wynn, 445 Terra Way, Lompoc, California 93436, (805) 733-4230.
- SANTA ANA: Frances Reeves, 25904 Robin Circle, Mission Viejo, California 92692, (714) 770-8548.
- GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT: Bernard Shanley, 1504 Manchester Road, Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033, (203) 649-6501.
- CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS: Indra Mohindra, 208 Russett Road, Chestnut Hill, Brookline, Massachusette 02167, (617) 325-6082.

- ALBANY. NEW YORK: Kasuma Thallam, 1380 Maple Hill Road, Castle-
ton, New York 12033 (518) 732-2090.
- FLUSHING, NEW YORK: Fred Greenberg, 10 Mountain Avenue. Bayville,
New York 11709, (516) 628-3091.

NOTE TO ALL SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS:

Other changes in meeting time, phone numbers or officers, will be
made in a new list to be sent out in May.





Kingdom of Sathya Sai

Guardian: Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Freedom is independence from externals. One who is in need of the help of another person, thing or condition is a slave thereof. Perfect freedom is not given to any man on earth, because the very meaning of mortal life is relationship with and dependence on another. The lesser the number of wants, the greater is the freedom; hence, perfect freedom is absolute desirelessness.

*Sri Sathya Sai Baba
20.10.79*

Bindavan. Hindugudi Post. Bangalore-560067 (Phone: 58485)



DIVINE DISCOURSE ON EDUCATION

The First in a Two Part Series Written by

Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Education sans wisdom, mere wisdom bereft of discrimination, action without discretion, erudition lacking sagacity, power not justified by deservedness, statements not based on truth, music wanting in melody, adoration not sustained by devotion, a person devoid of commonsense and character, a student not endowed with humility and a discourse that fails to inspire, serve no useful purpose.

In addition to knowledge derived from the sacred texts, one should gain wisdom through experience. Education and knowledge without personal experience will be futile. Wisdom lodged within us will be of no avail if it is static. It will assume the form of mere scholarship. If such learning is brought within the ambit of practice and experience, it is creditable. Acquiring and hoarding of wealth will be of no avail if it is not consecrated and spent for the welfare of the world. Similarly mere acquisition of knowledge from books is a futile exercise. Knowledge becomes blessed only when it is translated into experience and actions which promote the good of humanity. This translation of knowledge into experience is possible only when one passes through the three stages of Knowing (Inatum), Visualizing (Drashtum) and Entering (Praveshtum).

First, one must learn about the precious truths contained in the sacred texts from veterans in the field. When you learn about them you naturally take an interest in them. Then you develop an urge to visualize those truths at any cost. This is the first stage of Knowing.

In the second stage, we carefully peruse, examine and collect such sacred texts wherever they may be available. We read and directly visualize them. With great perseverance we inquire, comprehend and enjoy them. Thus we derive some satisfaction that we have discerned certain profound truths. This is the second stage of Visualizing.

It is not enough if we make progress in the first two stages. We must experience what we have known and seen. By entering the arena of experience, one should feel complete identification with the Ideal.

If one lies down idle after having consumed food it will cause indigestion. However, if one consumes daily the requisite quantity of food and undertakes some physical work it will be digested and, by being converted into blood, will offer nourishment. In the same manner, we should translate into experience and action what we have known and seen, by assimilating it and utilizing it for the progress of our country as well as for the welfare of humanity.

It is easy to memorize passages from books and deliver lectures. Knowledge acquired merely through the reading of books can be termed bookish knowledge. This is quite an ordinary type of knowledge. At least to some extent what has been heard, seen and understood should be put into practice. It has to be experienced. This is the stage of Entering.

In our ancient sacred lore are contained several precious truths. Invaluable gems lie hidden in them. Many scientific theories relating to the atom are also to be found there. Students should seek to unravel these hidden truths and harness them to the effort for human welfare. There must be an urge as well as the determination in them to explore undiscovered truths. They should not rest content with delivering discourses and appearing on forums of discussion.

Only those students possessing a genuine spirit of inquiry can disseminate real knowledge in the world. Mere superficial knowledge will be of no avail. There is no knowledge that can surpass the knowledge derived from direct experience. It must be acquired through self-effort, initiative, determination and perseverance. It should be utilized for technological development and increase of production which make for the country's progress.

It is necessary to derive wisdom from experience but it is equally essential to develop the faculty of discrimination which enables us to employ it for the well-being of the country. Education without discrimination, and wisdom without discernment are of no use. Education is one thing and discrimination is quite another. Discrimination is the faculty that enables us to distinguish good from bad and confers upon us the ability to decide when and how much importance, is to be given to various aspects in a given situation. Discrimination is a component of wisdom. Without discrimination one cannot pursue the right path. It is a mark of sagacity to display discrimination in all our actions. Through researches in atomic energy one

may invent destructive weapons which can reduce to ashes the entire world in a second. The same atomic energy might help us to generate millions of kilowatts of electric power which could be utilized for industries and agriculture, transforming the country into a smiling granary. An educated person should display discrimination in such matters and take the right course of action. Man's discoveries and intentions should not be used for evil purposes which lead to disaster and destruction. Discrimination guides us in properly employing them for augmenting production and promoting human welfare.

A man endowed with wisdom and discrimination will be honored and adored even though he may not have wealth or position. A person devoid of wisdom and discrimination can never blossom spiritually even though he may be an eminent educationist, a prominent scientist or a multimillionaire. One without wisdom and discrimination cannot even distinguish between dharma and adharma. Therefore, every student must acquire wisdom and discrimination without resting on his oars after gaining theoretical knowledge. He should develop far-sighted vision along with wisdom and use it for the uplift of society.

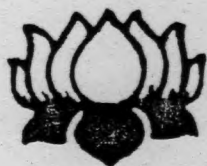
In addition to wisdom, discrimination and experience, one should also possess worldly wisdom which is known as commonsense. It cannot be acquired through books. In order to gain it one must travel extensively. It is for this purpose that our ancestors went on pilgrimages to see, speak to and touch the feet of holymen in sacred places. They also saw many wonderful sights and objects in this diverse universe of God and derived many valuable lessons therefrom. There are several objects in nature which teach valuable lessons imparting wisdom. The development of commonsense consists in comprehending the origin and nature of these objects.

One should grasp the significance of history, culture and civilization and propagate it. One who intends to undertake such propagation must first of all comprehend the nature of the soul. In this world there are several branches of learning like physics, music, literature, art and mathematics. Of all these forms of knowledge, Self-knowledge is the supreme sovereign. Without its attainment one cannot enjoy any peace. Though one may gain renown and recognition in the world, he will not experience happiness without Self-knowledge. "Knowledge of the soul", "knowledge of God" and "spiritual knowledge" - all these expressions connote that wisdom which promotes full awareness of soul and God. Self-knowledge is that knowledge by which everything else is known. A person with self-knowledge can indeed be acclaimed as all-knowing.

Secular learning cannot confer on us abiding and absolute peace. Self-knowledge alone can help us cross the sea of sorrow. So all should strive to attain this Self-knowledge, which can be acquired through purity of mind. Purity of mind can be attained through pious deeds, sacred acts, charity, helpful nature, compassion and devotion. Disinterested action consecrated to God purifies the heart. The Sun of Wisdom dawns in a pure heart. The dawn of such wisdom exalts Man to the status of God.

Human effort constitutes the prime step in man's endeavor to attain this highest state of Godhood. God's grace is the second essential factor. Anyone can strive for and attain self-knowledge. Men and women, rich and poor, all are eligible to kindle in themselves the flame of spiritual wisdom. Distinctions of race and religion, caste and creed do not come in the way. It does not matter if one has no secular education, no grounding in physical sciences, or is not well-versed in worldly lore. In the modern world it is not that easy to gain this Self-knowledge. All the same, one need not give up efforts in a mood of frustration and despair.

At times people relentlessly seek spiritual knowledge at the expense of secular learning. This is not desirable. Some miss both and wander aimlessly between the two; such a predicament too is undesirable. Secular learning should not be neglected. It is beneficial to acquire spiritual vision while seeking mastery over secular lore. So students should necessarily spend some time everyday in meditation upon God.



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