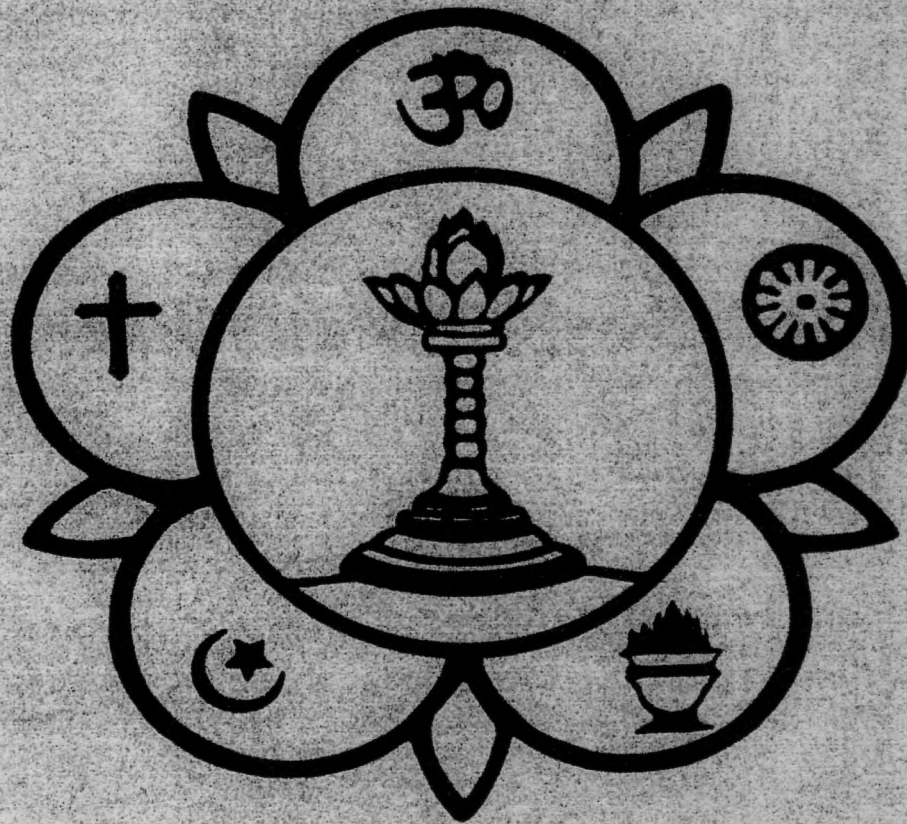


Sathya Sai Newsletter
1800 E. Garvey Avenue
West Covina, CA 91791

SATHYA SAI



Newsletter

SUMMER
Vol. 4 No. 4 1980

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



The world is the instrument for the attainment of renunciation; that is the reason why it is so tempting and so treacherous. He is the real Vedanthin (seeker of truth) who sees the world as an instrument for escape from its coils.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM
THE SATHYA SAI BABA COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS

1980 WORLD CONFERENCE IN INDIA
c/o Mr. Richard Bayer
Post Office Box 668
Soquel, California 95073

The Delegate list containing the names of delegates from Centers received before the deadline has been officially accepted and approved by Bhagavan. A supplementary list containing late entries, changes and observers was sent on July 4 and it is anticipated that it will also be accepted, although we have not yet been told if observers will be permitted. All Centers will be notified on this when the information is received, and will be sent copies of the delegate list to be sure it is accurate. Except for emergencies, we will not be able to submit any further list changes or additions. Please contact Richard Bayer if you have any Conference-related questions, address above.

PHOTOGRAPHS of Center activities and retreats were requested from Centers some time ago, and to date only one (1) photo has been received. We would like to be well represented in the display at the World Conference so please send any good photos you may have to Richard Bayer at the above address.

DEVOTIONAL SONGS: A search is being made for devotional songs in English from all churches and religions where the music is simple and attractive and the words devotional and nonsectarian. These will be considered for use in Center Bhajans. Yogananda's Door Of My Heart would be a good example (which Swami said was a good one to use). Please send, if possible, words, music and printed source, to Richard Bayer, address above.

CLIPPINGS FILE: An attempt will be made to organize a central file of all types of news articles about Sathya Sai Baba, since an occasional article may be of great interest to Centers and devotees in other parts of the Country and World. Please send ANY article you have (copy of original) to Mrs. Catherine Murray, Post Office Box 218, Whitney, Texas 76692. Please mark the name of the newspaper or magazine and the date of the issue. Also, any suggestions you may have on how such a file could be put to use should be sent to Mrs. Murray.

IDENTIFICATION LETTERS for Center members traveling to India will NOT be issued for those traveling between October 1, 1980 and January 15, 1981. Because of the large number of delegates and other devotees traveling at that time, the letters would serve no useful purpose.

FUND RAISING SOLICITATIONS - It has been reported to the Council that in late July 1980 persons were visiting West Coast Centers soliciting donations for a project in Brindavan, North India (not Whitefield). It cannot be repeated enough that Sathya Sai Baba does not lend his name or support to any fund raising or solicitation, and such solicitations go against his specific instructions. Please contact the Council with details of any such solicitations you may receive.



NOTICE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SATHYA SAI BABA COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS

ATTENTION: SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Please keep your Sathya Sai Newsletter staff informed of organizational meetings for service and bal vikas children's groups. This would be rendering a service to the Sai organization and would enable members of other Sathya Sai Baba Centers to attend and learn about the activities of sister Centers. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to hearing from you. Please send information to:

SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
6804 N. JOSHUA TREE LN.
PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 85253
Phone: (602) 959-3364

FROM HIS HEART SHALL FLOW LIVING WATERS

Shankar Baruah

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

Time is the inexorable power that charts man's destiny. It is also the eternal sovereign that witnesses the ripening of man's experience into sublime wisdom. It is the greatest healer that mellows hardened hearts with the seeds of love, goodness and faith and it is the harbinger of hope to the man caught in the vortices of dreary life.

Faith, steadfast faith, is the bedrock on which all religious beliefs stand. Faith is that virtue which brings one to the hallowed Lotus Feet of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Hearing about Him, developing respect for Him, holding Him in devout reverence and loving Him--these are the stages, which most of us have to pass through before the grand symphony of our experience culminates in the final crescendo of our consummation in the Divine.

To me, in my childish imagination, God was a heavenly being who had to be placated and propitiated by pouring our hearts out in soulful praise of His Glory. Fired by the fancy that I was being pious and devout, I used to do this with great zest and zeal. Soon, however, a time came when my mind became restless with dissatisfaction at the emptiness of the rituals--not that I disavowed these hymns and external forms of worship completely, for there was no doubt in my mind that worship done with sanguine sincerity endowed me with a sense of peace and radiant joy at having communed with the Divine. Yet, all that seemed empty, because I could not grasp and comprehend this ethereal, enigmatic existence of ONE to whom I prayed every day. Instead of wrestling with what then seemed to be vague and unreal concepts of the absolute and formless Parabrahman (God), I longed to behold that charming chitta-chor (stealer of hearts) called Krishna. God in human form with whom I could converse. How fortunate I am that the enchanting enrapturer, Lord Krishna, did come to me in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Many were the so called saints of whom I had heard and seen. None, however, evoked any sense of respect or reverence in me, for, intuitively, I found something indefinable lacking in these self-appointed men of God. But the name 'Sathya Sai Baba' was different.

I did not know how and why it should have been so, but I did know that this simple yet exotic name touched a deep chord in my arid heart.

I heard many a story of this strange person who called himself Sai Baba. There was an Air Force officer who was flying an attack aircraft on a dark and rainy night after a sortie against the enemy. Visibility was reduced to zero and he was flying solely guided by his instruments. Suddenly, what all Airmen fear, happened. The needles on the dash-board went beserk, the throttle-lever jammed and the plane went out of control. It was in these dire moments of despair that his pitiful prayers were answered. He saw a figure robed in a flaming-red gown and with a majestic crown of curly hair, an encouraging smile playing on his lips, saying, *Have no fear--I am with you*. The officer did not know what happened after that. The next time he was conscious of his surroundings, he found himself safe and secure on terra-firma.

I wondered that if a man could do this and many more such miracles, then surely, he must be a man of God. Bhagavan Baba commanded my total respect.

Gradually, news and stories of the phenomenon of Sai Baba spread to the far-flung eastern frontiers of the country, where I was. For many had covered the long distance to the south of India, had seen Him and obtained His Blessings. Those who saw Baba, said--'He is the friend of the poor, the lonely, the deprived and the desolate'. They extolled Baba's munificent bestowal of food, clothing and even dwelling houses to the poor and the needy. I heard and wondered at the compassion and love that He was attributed with. Apart from His powers and philanthropy, some talked of yet another facet of His multi-dimensional personality. They asserted that He exudes the most intimate charm of a dearly loved friend or mother and that by His very presence He engulfs you in a hallowed warmth of kinship.

Yes, this was what I had been seeking. I wanted to see God not in the sequestered confines of a shrine-room, but in the starving, illiterate, teeming millions of this land. I wanted a God who not only was an eternal witness to man's doings and misdoings, but also a God who could lead us by the hand into the world of unflinching faith and steadfast love.

Thus it was that I found my God in Bhagavan Baba. For, not only was He the fountain-head of wisdom and the ocean of compassion,

but He was also the one who taught me to seek Him through dedicated and selfless acts of service to suffering humanity. I learned that service is the outpouring of one's inner-most desire to share one's happiness with others by lending a helping hand; it is the shattering of the bondages of one's narrow-mindedness and it is the broadening of one's heart to assimilate the essence of all beliefs and faiths.

I lay no claims to being a pedantic philosopher-pundit; neither do I have any startling experiences of the Divine to reveal. I heard, came, saw, learned and experienced and, at the end of it all, remain more convinced than ever before that indeed I have come to the presence of the One on whom the yogis of yore meditated, the One whom Prahlada praised and the One who presented us with the precious pearl of the Bhagavad Gita.

Truly, Krishna has returned to His favorite playground of Brindavan. Never does a day go by in Brindavan without an experience that brings to light Bhagavan's love, power and omniscience, or an incident which will forever be cherished in the timeless vaults of our memory. I vividly recall how a student, who virtually broke down in grief as he had lost his mother, was so lovingly consoled by Bhagavan. The boy was fortunate--not because he lost his mother, but because Bhagavan Himself took on the role of the mother, directing and guiding the boy in his life thereafter. I also remember how, on another occasion, Bhagavan's Divine presence during an operation prevented a fatal accident and gave a boy a new lease on life.

Thus, having seen for myself Baba's love in action I could not help loving Him. Experience ripened my respect into reverence, adoration and love for the phenomenon, which the whole world will proclaim one day as the most unique, unprecedented event ever to occur. Earlier I did regard Bhagavan Baba as God but I believed that He was to be placed on a pedestal and offered our worship. His selfless, pure, divine acts touched the core of my being for here was God not only instructing man but also helping him in all ways--materially and spiritually.

We may claim to be devotees with long lists of penances and meritorious acts to our credit, but until Bhagavan accepts our offerings and acknowledges the purity of our thought, word and deed, our claims are without basis and in fact may negate the very idea of devotion which we profess to have. Bhagavan in one of His letters to the boys had written--*Come one and all. See in Me, yourself, for I see Myself*

in you all. You are My life, My breath, My soul, My forms all. When I love you, I love Myself. So do you love Me. My seeing is loving--how can I help it? My beloved ones, you are My own dear Self. I am separate from Myself so that I may love Myself.

Undoubtedly, Bhagavan loves us but we too must love the Lord with all our heart, all our mind and all our strength. For love is the light which shines only when there is a confluence of the positive of God's Divinity with the negative of man's devotion.

Let not the perennial river of pure, pellucid love flow from the Lord into a desert of sandy waste. Let it. instead, nourish and sustain the sprouts of devotion which will blossom into a tree of soul-stirring beauty.



GURU POURNIMA

Guru Pournima Day is the holiday dedicated to offering homage to the Guru. It is a full moon holiday (pournima) that usually falls in the month of July; this year (1980) it was celebrated on about the 27th day of July.

Sathya Sai Baba defines the Guru as the one who removes darkness and ignorance. *There is need for a Guru, someone who can guide and lead, who has covered the road and knows its ups and downs. You may have the lamp, wick and oil, but someone must light it. As one travels on that road, Sai Baba says, Have faith in the Guru, for then alone will your steps be steady and firm on the path to self-realization. Faith in the Guru should bring faith in the Atma, or else, the Guru is a handicap.*

Of the Guru Pournima festivities, Sai Baba has said, *There is no need to await this annual event for revering the Guru. People spend this day in worshipping the Guru and seeking his directives. This can be done all days of the year! . . . I want you to cultivate, not these external ceremonies and festivals, but, the internal sadhana, the inner vision, the spiritual longing. . . Who can be separately specified as Guru and who as disciple or pupil? Ignorance of the One leads to this dichotomy. Realization of the Truth will end this distinction. . . All are fundamentally Chit (consciousness, knowledge.) The teacher should not feel superior; the pupil should not feel inferior. Both are Atma in reality.*

God is the Guru, right in your heart, ready to lead and enlighten. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-pervading . . . ever near, ever dear, ever ready with counsel and courage. On Guru Pournima Day in 1974, Sai Baba closed his discourse with the following message: God is omnipresent; He is the inner motivator of every particle in the universe. To declare that He is amenable only to your style of worship, that He will answer only to the name that you have learned to use, is to insult His omniscience and His glory. See Him in all, serve Him in all. Revere Him in all. Pray, let the whole world prosper; let all mankind be happy. This is the special message I give you on this day.

NATIONAL BHAJAN COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Material has been submitted to the Bhajan Committee which we would like to make available to all Centers. Song sheets with musical notations for more than 30 bhajans which have been compiled by a devotee. These include new bhajans as well as the older more familiar ones. If these can be of help to you, or members of your Center, in learning bhajans, please write to the Bhajan Committee. We ask that you send \$2 to cover the costs of printing and postage. Please send requests to:

Loraine Burrows
c/o Albertson
RD 2, Sun Hill Road
Katonah, New York 10536

We have received more English bhajans and other English material, such as an original and poetic 108 Names dedicated to Baba. If there is need for English bhajans at your Center, please write to us. Please, also, continue to send your compositions to us. Correspondence from Centers and individuals enables the committee to better serve you. Letters relating to English bhajans should be sent to:

Faith Hollander
203 Cumbermeade Road, #6
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

Contact your National Bhajan Committee at either of the previously mentioned addresses.



LET'S SET THE RECORD RIGHT

We of the Sathya Sai Newsletter deeply regret some misinformation that was printed in the last issue, Spring 1980.

The Sathya Sai Newsletter said that smokers are being allowed to practice their habit in a specified area on the ashram grounds at Prasanthi Nilayam.

Let it be known that this information is totally incorrect. We pray that it has not caused embarrassment to the good people of the ashram, or any devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

We thought this a good opportunity to review the code of conduct for all visitors to the residences of our spiritual preceptor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This is the current code of conduct now being distributed at the ashram.



GUIDELINES AND CODE OF CONDUCT AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM AND BRINDAVAN

I. PLEASE-

- (1) Observe Silence and keep children under control.
- (2) Dress in a clean, modest and sober manner. (Ladies using western dress may kindly have a wide scarf across the shoulders and wear long skirts).
- (3) Observe seating arrangements for ladies and gents separately.
- (4) Form the Queue habit on all occasions.

- (5) Stay where ever you are during Aarti and after Darshan until Bhagavan has left the compound.
- (6) Take good care of your personal belongings, such as cameras, tape recorders, etc.
- (7) Deposit any article lost and found at the Lost Property Office.
- (8) When you vacate your rooms, ensure that all taps are closed, electric switches are turned off and the room is in clean condition; lock it and return the key to the Accommodations Office.
- (9) Make use of the Canteen where food is prepared hygienically by devotees for devotees.
- (10) Bring enough funds with you to adequately take care of your needs during your stay.
- (11) Devote your time to spiritual activities and your own Sadhana.

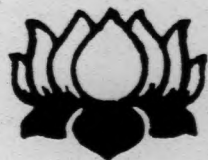
II. PLEASE DO NOT-

- (1) Get friendly with persons not known to you and encourage them to develop business relations with you. Ladies and gentlemen are not expected to mix unless they are related to each other.
- (2) Pay attention to those who claim to have close associations with Bhagavan, or to have 'inner' messages, or special Blessings from Bhagavan. You are particularly cautioned against any persons claiming to have kinship with Bhagavan and inveigling you into actions not expected of devotees. Foreign nationals may take special note in this regard.
- (3) Play transistor radios, tape recorders, etc., except to hear devotional music, talks, etc., and in such a manner that they cause disturbance to others.
- (4) Hold group Bhajans in rooms, sheds, etc.
- (5) Rush forward or stand up or attempt to touch Bhagavan's feet.

- (6) Enter the prayer hall (at Prasanthi Nilayam) for meditation if you are suffering from cough, as it will disturb others in meditation.
- (7) Reserve space in advance for yourself or others on any occasion.
- (8) Bring offerings of any kind for Bhagavan.
- (9) Take photographs inside the Prasanthi Mandir (prayer hall) and Auditorium.
- (10) Spit, throw about rubbish or engage in other unclean habits.
- (11) Clean vessels, wash clothes or take bath at any place not specifically allotted for the purpose.
- (12) Hang clothes for drying, etc. on the verandas, in sheds, on trees, etc.
- (13) Use footwear in the compound of the Prasanthi Mandir and other places indicated.
- (14) Ring the bell in the Prasanthi Mandir and at other places where it may be hung.
- (15) Waste water and electricity and damage any of the properties in the area and fixtures in the rooms allotted to you (including any locked cupboards or rooms).
- (16) Allow other persons to occupy the room allotted to you or the attached veranda (at Prasanthi Nilayam) unless they are personally known to you and specific permission from the Accommodations Office has been obtained.
- (17) Make collections for any individual or organization.
- (18) Encourage pedlars, hawkers, beggars, and unauthorized porters and servants. The identity numbers and names of washermen and other servants may be noted.
- (19) Move about after 'lights off' time (9 P.M.) at Prasanthi Nilayam.

- (20) Smoke, or take drugs of any kind or alcoholic drinks or nonvegetarian food (including eggs, fish, etc.).
- (21) Follow Bhagavan's car when He is traveling, unless you have been specially invited to do so.

III. All foreign nationals are advised to make sure that they comply with Government regulations regarding registration, residence permits, etc. and that all their travel documents are in order.



SAI PUBLICATIONS FROM INDIA

For those who would be interested in receiving SANATHANA SARATHI, an informative magazine containing Sri Baba's most recent discourses, pictures and itinerary. Other publications include SEVA DAL, a magazine devoted to service, and SRI SATHYA SAI BALA VIKAS, a newsletter specifically for students and teachers. All periodicals are from India.

	<u>SEA MAIL</u>	<u>AIR MAIL</u>
SANATHANA SARATHI (monthly)	16 Rupees	51 Rupees
SEVA DAL (quarterly)	9 Rupees	20 Rupees
SRI SATHYA SAI BALA VIKAS (quarterly)	9 Rupees	20 Rupees

Consult your bank for current rupee/dollar exchange rate. Enclose an International Money Order made out to SRI SATHYA SAI BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS, PRASANTHI NILAYAM P.O. ANANTAPUR DIST. (A.P.) 51534 INDIA. The name and full address of the remitter should be furnished in BLOCK LETTERS on reverse side of Money Order. Please state that you wish the ENGLISH EDITION.

FOR WOMEN

Educated women can do useful service to the community around them, according to their skill, taste, inclination, desire, character, educational status, mode of living, discipline or scholarship. They should avoid tarnishing the reputation of their parents; their family or themselves. A woman without a good character is as bad as 'dead'; so women must be ever vigilant when they move about in the world. They should avoid flippant talk or free mixing. The discriminating women will engage only in such acts as will add to the luster of her husband's fame and honor, never an act which will tarnish it. That is why it is said, "Sadguna or virtue is the sign of the educated person, the thing which makes education worthwhile".

I do not declare that women should not be educated or that they should not move in society. Wherever they move, if they are endowed with good qualities, and if the good qualities are accompanied by good actions and good habits, and adherence to Sanathanadharma (the ancient wisdom) and Sadhana (spiritual discipline) then their study is really worth while and society is indeed benefited. Study and society are not harmful in themselves; they react with the nature of the persons who make use of them and yield good or bad results. The cat holds the kitten as well as the rat in the self same mouth, but, with what a difference? The kitten, it fondles; the rat, it kills. The bite is neutral, it is the rat or kitten that decides how it behaves.

So too, knowledge can develop discrimination, inspire the springs of service, prompt inquiry into the Reality, and promote the search for the Absolute.

FOR MEN

Some men esteem themselves as part divine but have they all the attributes that should characterize them; or have they at least Daya (Sympathy), Dharma (Morality), Paropakara (Service of others) and Santham (Equanimity)? If they have these at least in a small measure, they can be regarded as divine. Instead, if the full battery of demonic equipment is evident in them, how can their declaration be taken at its face value? It is sheer vanity to pretend so or to claim as such. Vanity and pomp can never be classed as divine; they are unquestionably demonic.

THE SATHYA SAI SUNBELT RETREAT

September 19-21, 1980

Sky-Y Camp

Prescott, Arizona

LOCATION:

The Sky-Y Camp is located on Senator Highway, seven miles south of Prescott, in the Bradshaw Mountains (6,300 feet elevation) among the tall pines. The Camp is one of the finest retreat facilities in Arizona. It will serve as a beautiful and proper setting for the Sunbelt Retreat, as Sai Baba devotees assemble there for Inspiration, Upliftment, Meditation and Fellowship.

REGISTRAR: Mrs. Dorothy Wilkinson
2324 East Fairfield
Mesa, Arizona 85203

COST: \$20 for adults
\$15 for spouse and children over 12
\$10 for children under 12
Children under 6 - our guests

IN THE MEANTIME - Make your plans and give your plans to Baba.
RE-TREAT YOURSELF!

Sai Ram ~ Sai Ram ~ Sai Ram

REGISTRATION FOR THE SUNBELT SATHYA SAI RETREAT--September 19-21, 1980

Name _____ \$20.00 _____

Address _____ Telephone No. _____

Spouse and/or others over 12 _____

_____ \$15.00 each _____

Children 12 and under (Names & Ages) _____

_____ \$10.00 each _____

Children under 6 (Names & Ages) _____

_____ (No Charge) TOTAL _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SUNBELT RETREAT c/o Registrar (address above)



PAD NAMASKAR

Pad namaskar literally means "the act of touching the foot of the guru or teacher. East Indians have this as part of their traditions. Devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Baba are frequently reaching for His feet as shown in the photograph; but this action, and the reason behind it, is unfamiliar to westerners. The question arises, is this action appropriate for westerners?

First, it is important to understand something of the meaning underlying pad namaskar. Pad literally means foot, and when an "m" is added as a suffix to namaskarm it means "the homage of prostration. It is symbolic of placing the individuals ego at the feet of the Lord. Devotees of Sathya Sai Baba feel it is a special privilege and grace to have the opportunity of touching His feet. One young

man told the author, the first time he touched Baba's foot a tremendous thrill went through him. He was so pleased with the effect he made a special effort to touch Baba again, but this time nothing happened. Here perhaps motive is all important.

A record producer from California, upon becoming interested in Sai Baba said, ". . .everybody wanted to touch His feet so I figured that was something I should do too. When I tried He said 'No'. I realized then that I was doing it because everybody else was, that I didn't have spiritual motivation or love.

The biblical tradition of pad namaskar is referred to in the New Testament, Luke 7-38 through 7-48. A woman known as a sinner comes where Jesus is, bathes His feet with her tears and dries them with her hair; she kisses His feet repeatedly and anoints them with ointment. Jesus tells Simon, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven: for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." Therein lies an example of the importance of motivation and love.

The Christian tradition calls for a ritual to be followed and various supplicative forms are used, such as kneeling, bowing of head, hands pressed together, the sign of the cross, or genuflecting. The ritual form is followed, whether done with genuine feeling or not.

This author has concluded that it does not matter whether a person is eastern or western, Hindu, Jew or Christian, the importance of pad namaskar lies in the heart. A gesture of supplication without devotion is a false thing, and truth should always exist between a man and his God.



You may benefit from God yet you cannot explain Him.

Very few of you have come to get what I have come to give you, namely, liberation.

NEW CASSETTES, VIDEO TAPES AND BOOK

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

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

NEW FILM SOUNDTRACK CASSETTES AND TRANSCRIPT

- A-100 Soundtrack cassette from the film LOST YEARS OF JESUS, \$5 plus 65¢ postage.
- A-101 Soundtrack cassette from the film AURA OF DIVINITY, \$5
- Written transcript from film AURA OF DIVINITY, \$5 plus 65¢ postage.

NEW BHAJAN CASSETTES

- SC-011 BRINDAVAN BHAJANS sung by Mrs. Parvaty Mahadavan and devotees from the north eastern United States, 60 minutes, \$5.
- SC-012 SAI BHAJANS sung by Mani Majumdar and the Chicago devotees, 60 minutes, \$5.

VIDEO CASSETTES NOW AVAILABLE

Because of a new source these video cassettes are now able to be offered at half of what they would have cost, and with no loss of quality.

- AURA OF DIVINITY, the complete film in 1/2" VHS and Betamax, 60 minutes, \$49 plus postage.
- Includes three films on one 2-hour video cassette SATHYA SAI BABA - HIS LIFE IS HIS MESSAGE, CELEBRATION, AND THE MESSAGE I BRING, in 1/2" VHS and Betamax, \$69 plus postage.

NEW BOOK

- THE JESUS MYSTERY - Of Lost Years and Unknown Travels by Janet Bock. This volume traces the travels of Jesus from age 12 to 30. It includes statements by Sri Sathya Sai Baba as to the nature of Jesus Christ - 231 pages with many illustrations \$7.95 plus postage.

DIVINE PRESENCE

Major turning points in my life always seem to arrive unexpectedly. Transformations of attitude and circumstance, undreamed of only shortly before, become reality. However, when the transition has come, it has brought me closer to a part of myself which does not change.

Such was my introduction to Sri Sathya Sai Baba in November of 1978. My mother, a long time student of metaphysical teachings, presented me and my wife with copies of Murphet's Sai Baba Avatar and Sandweiss' Holy Man and the Psychiatrist. Although I had heard a little bit about Sai Baba, I had not been impressed until this time. Stories about various holy men from India are common and often accompanied by tales of their mischievous doings. But I quickly found these stories to be quite different. As a student of religion in college and a reader of a variety of metaphysical subjects, I had not before heard anything quite like what was presented in these books. I had found great satisfaction reading about the devotion of Ramakrishna and the discrimination of Ramana Maharshi and the early Zen teachers, but this was much more. The miracles surrounding Sai Baba's name in all lands seemed testament to a power and omniscience unseen in modern times. I was soon to learn of these powers first hand.

I quickly became engrossed in my discovery of this God Man living and walking upon the earth. Soon my every waking thought, and even dreams, seemed to be filled with Sai Baba. At this time I framed and placed pictures of Baba in various rooms throughout the house. After framing one picture, which I had cut from the pages of Sai Baba Avatar, I noticed a fine light gray powder on the outside of the frame. Investigation proved it to be a sweet tasting ash. The source was not readily apparent, for this ash was not akin to either the dust on my desk or any incense ash to be found in this room. Independently of my observations, my wife also investigated this occurrence. She found the substance to have a sweet taste and perfume unlike anything we could find in the house. We could only suppose that it was a grace from the Lord who saw our small efforts from afar and rewarded us with a sign of His presence. The confirmation was soon to follow.

The photograph on which the ash, or "Vibhuti", appeared pictured Sai Baba in a remote pose. However, I wanted a smiling and happy Baba, who would look back from his place on my desk. Unwilling to leave well enough alone, I changed the picture in the frame. Perhaps as mysteriously as it had appeared the Vibhute disappeared. Only some weeks later did I prepare to reframe the original photo, after giving my smiling Baba to a friend. In the hope that the light gray ash might return, I carefully dusted the picture prior to reframing it. This time I wanted to be sure that if any ash might return there would be no mistake. Not a speck of stray material was left on the photo. I carried the photo to my study to cut matboard and placed it beside me on the desk. Upon looking back at the photo a moment later it was seen to have a fine gray Vibhuti resting upon it. On lifting the photo it slid effortlessly into the palm of my hand. Surely it could have come only from a divine source.

This sign propelled me and my wife to make the trip to India. By the end of January we had arrived in that ancient land to see the source of these modern day miracles. We found that these signs had indeed heralded the presence of a modern Avatar. An Avatar who not only performed miracles but also embodied a compassion and love of humanity which I had never seen before. We have since come to see that this love and understanding as the true miracle of the Lord returned.

| 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 N. Joshua Tree Ln., |
Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253.



SATHYA SAI BABA DIRECTORS AND CENTERS

DIRECTORS OF THE SATHYA SAI BABA COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS

There is a change of address for Regional Director:

- MR. TERRY PAYNE, 4386 Belle Wood Drive, Littleton, Colorado 80123, (303) 797-6677.

PRECED E EACH LOCATION WITH SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF:

- Delete from list:
Memphis, Tennessee

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, 935 Alameda Road, Albuquerque, NM 87114, Same phone number.
- SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, Freda Quenneville, 1819 East Republican, #304, Seattle, WA 98112, (206) 323-5707, Bhajans: Thursday 7:30 P.M. Visitors welcome Sunday 6 P.M. Was formerly Sathya Sai Baba Center of Puget Sound.
- PHOENIX, ARIZONA, John Wood, 8202 North Charles Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ, (602) 948-5208, Bhajans: Thursday 8 P.M.

NEW CENTERS, WELCOME

- MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT, Michael Jung, 63 Homestead St., Manchester, CT 06040, (203) 646-4319, Bhajans: Sunday 10:30 A.M.
- ATLANTA, GEORGIA, Cosby Powell, 508 Park Ave. S.E., Atlanta, GA 30312, (404) 627-0746, Bhajans: Thursday 8 P.M.
- BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA, Al Drucker, Coast Road, Big Sur, CA 93920, (408) 667-2113, Bhajans: Friday 7:30 P.M.
- CATANIA, SICILY, ITALY, Mrs. Sovilla Tamburino, Piazza Ariosto n. 13, Catania, Sicily 95100 Italy.
- LIMA, PERU, Mr. Walter B. Buitron, Av. Cayetano Heredia 528-D, Lima 11, Peru, Phone: 322488, Bhajans: Thursday and Sunday 6 P.M.





DIVINE DISCOURSE ON EDUCATION

The Last in a Two Part Series Written by
Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Students have to spring into the sphere of action and strive to the best of their ability for the building up of a resurgent culture. They must shed nepotism and the desire for power. The desire to uproot corruption and immorality, and the urge to work hard should firmly be implanted in the heart of every student. Civilization's future depends on them and is waiting for them. It is the duty of children to serve and please their mother and to serve the motherland selflessly should be the sacred ideal of one's life. Thus, it is the duty of all students to engage themselves in the dedicated service of their country. Such an obligation on our part may even be described as forming part of 'Desa niti' (nobility of character of the individual vis-a-vis his motherland). Therefore, every student must develop in him a wider perspective of national unity and integrity. A person without character can neither uplift himself nor be of any use to the country. Those who sacrifice their interest, seeking the welfare of the nation, truly discharge their duties to their motherland.

Sacrifice too is an aspect of character. It is one of the qualities which young men should imbibe. It is often thought that charitable and philanthropic acts make for sacrifice. But there is a vast difference between charity and sacrifice. Charitable people give only a fraction of their bounty to others. Giving of land, distribution of food, contribution of physical labor and spreading of education and knowledge belong to this category. Through acts of charity no man ever gives up all that he has. One is not cursed to be born penurious if one does not perform acts of charity. Going a step higher some retain for themselves what is just and essential and give away the rest to society. Such people win the highest acclaim in the world. Our sacred texts prescribe that a portion of one's possessions must be offered to the poor and helpless. Neglecting this injunction, one should not accumulate lakhs of rupees (a great deal of money) in a selfish, callous, unfair and unjust manner like an avaricious curmudgeon. Such a miser will become a victim of disaster and degradation, sooner or later. It is inevitable.

Wealth piled up through unfair means is the result of exploitation of the blood of the poor. Young men ought not to become slaves of

such unfair existence and adopt exploitation as a means to living. Even God will not forgive such selfish exploitative lives. He who piles up wealth without enjoying or giving to others will be damned after death; the progeny of such people too will be damned in the future.

There are four inheritors for hoarded wealth. The first is Charity; the second, "the king". Fire is the third inheritor and robbes the fourth. The first claimant is Charity and the major share goes to it. Students should recognize the profound significance of this truth and utilize the wealth they acquire for the welfare of mankind.

Sacrifice is the highest step. One who has the true spirit of sacrifice gives to others without any hesitation or reservation, smilingly and gladly, even his dearest and highest possession. Surrendering the fruit of action to the Lord is real sacrifice. A Tyagi (one who is detached) does not shrink even to give up his body, regarding it as a worthless straw. Sacrifice means something more than giving up of wealth, gold, and material objects. Evil qualities like hatred, jealousy, wrath and malice which have become ingrained in man over many lifetimes should be discarded. There is no happiness greater than that obtained from sacrifice. Only those who sacrifice are the children of immortality because they live forever.

When we study our epics and legends we come across numerous figures who embody such spirit of sacrifice. Emperors like Sibi and Bali, heroes like Dadhichi and Karna belong to that illustrious line. We need today such persons animated by the spirit of sacrifice among the political leaders and students. They should forget selfishness, crush egoism, dispel desire for power, and put an end to pettiness of mind, and pledge themselves to establish righteousness, to dispense justice and to promote the welfare of society.

Unfortunately, words are losing their significance. Sacrifice, justice, righteousness, and service have lost their meaning and degenerated into a business. Selfishness looms large and dances like a destructive demon among the students, politicians and educationists. Clamour for power and the desire for position are uppermost in the mind of man. Our country (India) which was once celebrated as a land of sacrifice, dedicated endeavor and penance has degenerated into a veritable play ground for ephemeral joys. And this is the reason for the country's many afflictions and ailments.

Students! This state of things must come to an end and there should be a change for the better when our history will be repeated and our former glory revived. Thousands of sacrificing spirits should emerge from your midst. Every young Indian should be enriched once more by the spirit of sacrifice.

Sacrifice is sweeter than enjoyment. Sacrifice should become the aim of life. Only through sacrifice can one attain peace. Sorrows do not flee from us as long as the mind is not at peace with itself. Agonies dwell forever within us. Without the tranquility of the soul any amount of wealth cannot be of any use. Surrendering the fruits of action with a dispassionate mind is eligible to be termed sacrifice. Purity of mind alone can confer upon it tranquility. The Upanishads have proclaimed in a full-throated voice that sacrifice alone leads to immortality. Sacrifice is the chief trait of the pure. Therefore, every student must imbibe and display the spirit of sacrifice in his life. He should not become a victim of the disease of enjoyment.

Unfortunately, there is a wide-spread opinion circulating freely that education is for a job but not for the expansion of illumination. This is deplorable. Wisdom is illumination. It is the aim of education to radiate that light of wisdom. Such wisdom bestows upon man real power. Wisdom enables us to recognize mutual relationships of objects and individuals and to know the precedents and antecedents of each object.

How can this illumination enter man's being? By listening to and going through great books like the Vedas, the Vedantas, the Upanishads, the Koran, the Granth Saheb, the biographies of noble souls, books dealing with physical and technological sciences and psychology, one gains this light. Along with wisdom, a discriminatory approach and logical thinking can be gained by reading them. One should not depend entirely on knowledge derived from sacred texts but depend upon wisdom arising from experience.

The shape and the content of education must change. Professor Gunnar Myrdal of Stockholm University visiting Delhi in 1972, said "The educational system of India is not progressive. It fosters the mentality that we shall not soil our hands." All Indians, especially students, should recapitulate these words. This remark pin-points the tendency of our students to lead comfortable lives under electric fans, resting in air conditioned chambers, avoiding manual labor, its stress and

strain, sweat and dirt, without even one fold of their ironed clothes getting crumpled.

This attitude is a far cry from the ideals of obedience and humility instilled by education. Students must strive to impart to the people around them in society, the sacred ideas they have imbibed. They must spring like tiger cubs into the arena of the villages and cleanse them of all sorts of pollution. They must teach and train the illiterate residents of the villages to live decently and with dignity. Students must strive along with the villagers and lead them forward. Students of today should pose lofty ideals of life to the world through their exemplary lives. Students of the Sri Sathya Sai Colleges are capable of setting an example to the world through their lives. Only such students are the alumni of the Sri Sathya Sai Colleges. All their endeavors shall be crowned with success.

Next quarter, Fall 1980, the Sathya Sai Newsletter begins a series of interviews in the form of questions and answers by an Indian journalist with the answers given by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.



EAST COAST RETREAT

Weekend retreat for East coast Sathya Sai Baba Centers will be held September 13 and 14 at Lake Surprise Camp near Poughkeepsie, New York.

Please contact local Centers for information.

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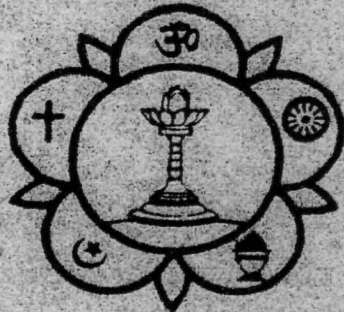
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