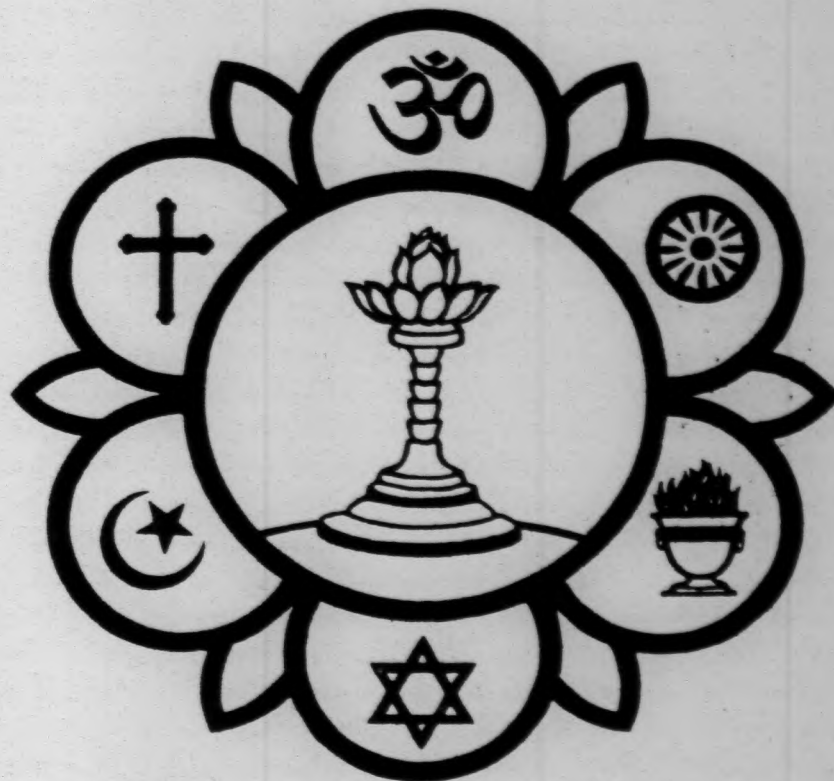


Sathya Sai Newsletter
1800 E. Garvey Avenue
West Covina, CA 91791

HAS NOTES

SATHYA SAI



Newsletter

WINTER 1980-81

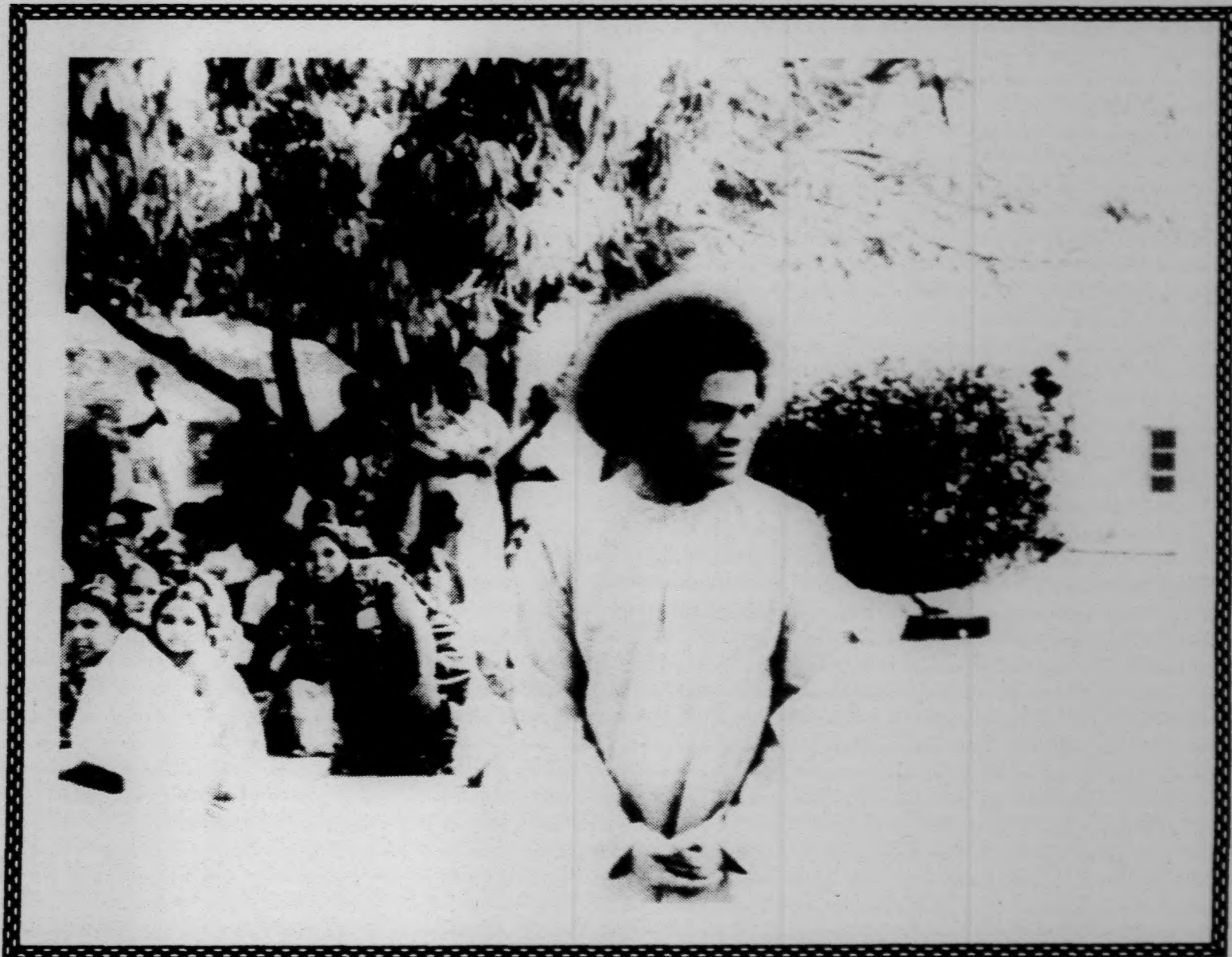
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*send to India
Mr. Narasimhan
Swami*

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



There are three kinds of messengers: (1) Those who take orders from the Master, but will not carry out the instructions. (2) Those who take literally what the Master has said and follow it without adding or subtracting anything. The result of such action will be accepted as it is and reported back to the Master. (3) Those who comprehend the wishes of the Master and perform the task in such a way that the wishes of the Master are completely and at all costs fulfilled. Such will be victorious and take back the message of victory to the Lord.

Prasanthi Nilayam 11-29-80

THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE REPORT

The Third World Conference of Sathya Sai Organizations was both a magnificent celebration and a beneficial meeting. Over 12,000 delegates and countless devotees gathered at Prasanthi Nilayam, and all were looked after, fed and accommodated through the tremendous efforts of the various "Seva Dal" units and the Sathya Sai College students. Overseas delegates were housed in the new College Hostel and fed "Western" style food there. In addition to the conference meetings, processions and Bhagavan's Discourses, there were cultural events and a varied program that culminated in the 55th Birthday Celebrations. A detailed description of the day by day program can be found in the SANATHANA SARATHI magazine.

The American Sathya Sai Organization, through the conference and with the advice of Bhagavan, has made the following changes:

- (1) We are now known as the Sathya Sai Baba Council of America and only Centers in the United States of America may affiliate with the Council. This is because it is Sathya Sai Baba's wish that the devotees of each country form at the appropriate time the type of organization most suited to the population of the country.
- (2) The Council of America is now accredited by the World Council of Sathya Sai Organizations (now located at Prasanthi Nilayam) as the official organization of Sai devotees in the United States. Its Guidelines are recognized as the framework for all Centers in the U.S.A., along with any provisions in the World Council's charter pertaining to overseas Centers.
- (3) The American devotees shall, like their brothers and sisters abroad, make every effort to see the universality of Sai's message, developed and linked with our national culture and heritage and seek out those traditions in our culture that illuminate man's higher nature.

In addition to the Conference meetings, the American Council held its Annual meeting and also met on several occasions with the American delegation. Open discussions were held on all issues and certain questions were later placed before Bhagavan:

ARATHI RITUAL - Centers have now been notified that the waving of a camphor lamp may be performed at Center meetings, though caution

should be exercised with the flame. A special effort should be made to explain the simple significance of the Arathi to all newcomers at meetings, lest they be confused by a custom that is foreign to Western traditions.

SIXTY PERCENT RULE - Bhagavan has relaxed the sixty percent attendance rule where it is a legitimate problem for Center members; however, Center officers must adhere to it.

Also, the Council formed a Bal Vikas Coordinating Committee, headed by Mrs. Nadine Clegern, to establish a firm footing for the program in American Centers. The program's name and emphasis were changed by the World Council to "Education for Human Values".

Prior to opening day of the World Conference an agenda was given to the delegates outlining the topics for discussion and recommended changes in organization. On the opening morning and each evening there was a discourse by Baba which naturally gave us the guidance we needed as well as pointing out to us why we were there.

During the conference each committee was stressed. Sri Baba pointed out that in order to give service properly it is not money that counts but *selfless service* that matters. He stressed that teaching the children good character is of the utmost importance to return righteousness to the world. Study Circle was emphasized in that it enables members to understand Swami's teachings and help us learn discrimination.

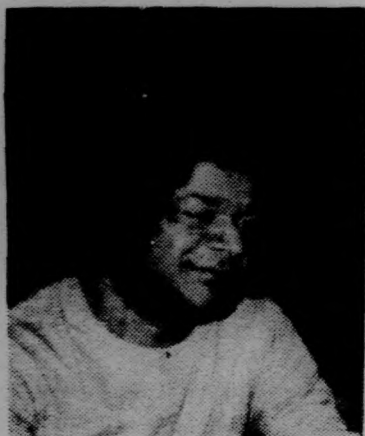
Centers will be hearing more about the above changes and additions, as well as other information from the Council and the various Committees. We all look forward to the coming years as a wonderful opportunity for self-improvement and self-realization through selfless service.



If it were not for my devotees, the world would have been much worse off during the past 10 or 15 years.

Baba

THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE AND BAL VIKAS



In India, the Bal Vikas Children's program is undergoing some revisions. One change is that the program will be known as Education for Human Values rather than Bal Vikas. It is hoped that this program will be taught to all Indian children through the school systems. All references to Swami have been eliminated so that the program will be universal. It is broadened to incorporate more teachings from all religions of the world. The children will memorize one prayer from each religion plus an optional prayer.

The World Council has made a ruling that all Centers which have been in existence for two years must have a Children's Program. Each country will be allowed to make up its own syllabus.

In order that the United States begin to unify its teachings and establish a curriculum, the Sathya Sai Baba Council of America has established a Committee. The members are as follows: Nadine Clegern, Chairman, 17 McDivitt Drive, Manchester, Connecticut 06040; Denise Dake, Box 1137, Shady Cove, Oregon 97539; Bimla Bhola, 619 J. Anderson Court #64, West Loraine Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161; Muff Berger, Bedford Lane, Fishkill, New York 12524; and Shelley Van Arsdale, 23175 Gainford Street, Woodland Hills, California 91364 and Karen Macklin, 19401 North 7th Street #269, Phoenix, Arizona 85024. Each Committee Member will be working with the Centers in their area of the Country. The Chairman reports to Dr. Samuel Sandweiss who represents the Sathya Sai Baba Council of America.

The Committee will work on a curriculum and start a training program for teachers. All teachers will now come under a Committee Member. The Committee Members will work with the Presidents of Centers to choose a teacher. If for some reason any difficulties arise in the Children's Program, the Committee Member may be called in.

The Committee Members will also organize a Children's Day in each region as well as Regional Conferences for Teachers, Camps, etc. This year the regional Children's Day will be held on June 6.

It is hoped that all Centers will encourage the Children's Program by aiding in discipline, supporting projects, and letting the children lead bhajans occasionally. It requires the support of the whole Center to have a successful Children's Program.

There has been some question about the appropriateness of teaching slokas* to Western children. In line with the broader aspect of the Education for Human Values program the classes in the Sathya Sai Baba Centers should reflect a harmonious and integrated approach to world religions and no one religion or approach should dominate.

The OM publication for teachers and parents will list any new teaching policies and Children's Programs. For that information contact OM, 17 McDivitt Drive, Manchester, Connecticut 06040.

The end of education is character.

Baba



*Sloka - A Sanskrit verse from Vedic scriptures written in meter in words that rhyme and convey a good thought, praise or prayer.

THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE AND SERVICE

There was once a king who questioned many a scholar and sage who came to his court, "Which is the best service and which is the best time to render it?" He could not get a satisfying answer from them. One day while pursuing the forces of a rival king, he got separated from his troops, in the thick jungle; he rode a long way, exhausted and hungry, until he reached a hermitage. There was an old monk who received him kindly and offered him a welcome cup of cool water; after a little rest the king asked his host, the question that was tormenting his brain: "Which is the best service?" The hermit said, "Giving a thirsty man a cup of water". "And, which is the best time to render it?" The answer was, "When he comes far and lonely, looking for some place where he can get it". The act of service is not to be judged, according to the cost of publicity it entails; it may be only the offering of a cup of water in the depth of a jungle. But, the need of the recipient, the mood of the person who offers - these decide whether the act is gold or lead.

Fill every act of yours with Love, Let no one suffer the slightest pain, as a result of your thought, word or deed. Let this be your Sadhana. It will surely help you to achieve the Goal.

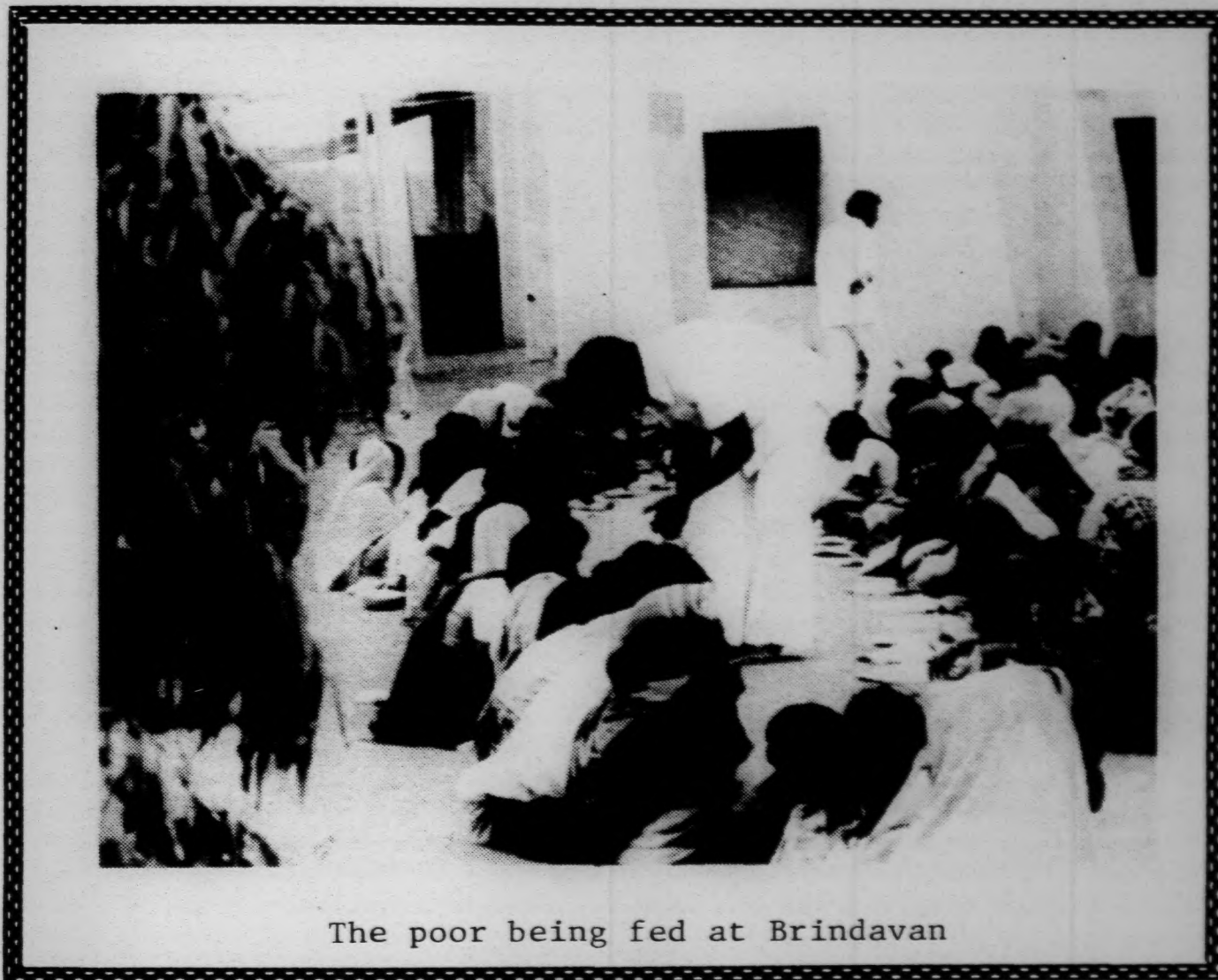
Prasanthi Nilayam 5-24-67
SATHYA SAI SPEAKS, Vol. VI

The devotees who are interested in service met during the Third World Conference. The service committee is being organized with Mr. Larry Smith as representative from the Sathya Sai Baba Council of America, he is coordinator of the national service committee and all ideas, suggestions and questions should be directed to him. Larry Smith, 110 Minot Avenue, Chula Vista, California 92010, (714) 422-2031.

It was decided that to initiate a service program on a national scale is not yet appropriate, and that all service projects should start at the level of the Sathya Sai Baba Centers. Swami's name or that of the Center should be used with discretion, first being certain that any service activities are viable, well organized and worthy of bearing His name.

During the entire World Conference and Birthday Celebration Sri Baba made many references to Service:

While your body, mind and intelligence are good, strong and powerful, if you cannot use your life for helping others, what is the use of your life? You cannot lead a life like an oil drop on the



The poor being fed at Brindavan

surface of water without touching water. If the community around you is not remembered and if all the time you think of your own selfish interests, you are not going to be any good to anyone around you. Your life will in that case be a waste.

Prasanthi Nilayam 11-25-80



IN HONOR OF BHAGAVAN'S 55TH BIRTHDAY

Beloved Swami, Thou art our blessed Avatar
Hear our plea, let us ever be where You are
In human form, You came to offer us Your Grace
To be divine, to free us from this human race

We took a step and You a hundred came our way
We only ask that in our hearts You'll always stay
You've come to us and honored us with Your birth
To show us how there's freedom now from this earth

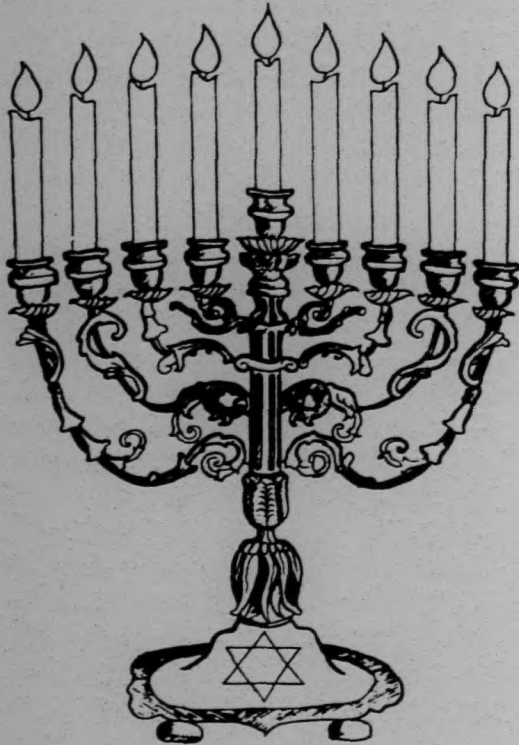
On this, Your Day, our only way to show our love
Is work as You would have us do and giving love
And thinking only thoughts divine that all are one
And always turn to Swami's Light as to the sun

I am always
with you and
around you don't
worry, Bhappu, I see
yours will love and Bhappu
Sm Sily. See B. h
23. 11 80,



A message written by
Bhagavan to devotees
on His 55th birthday

HANUKAH IN BRINDAVAN 1980



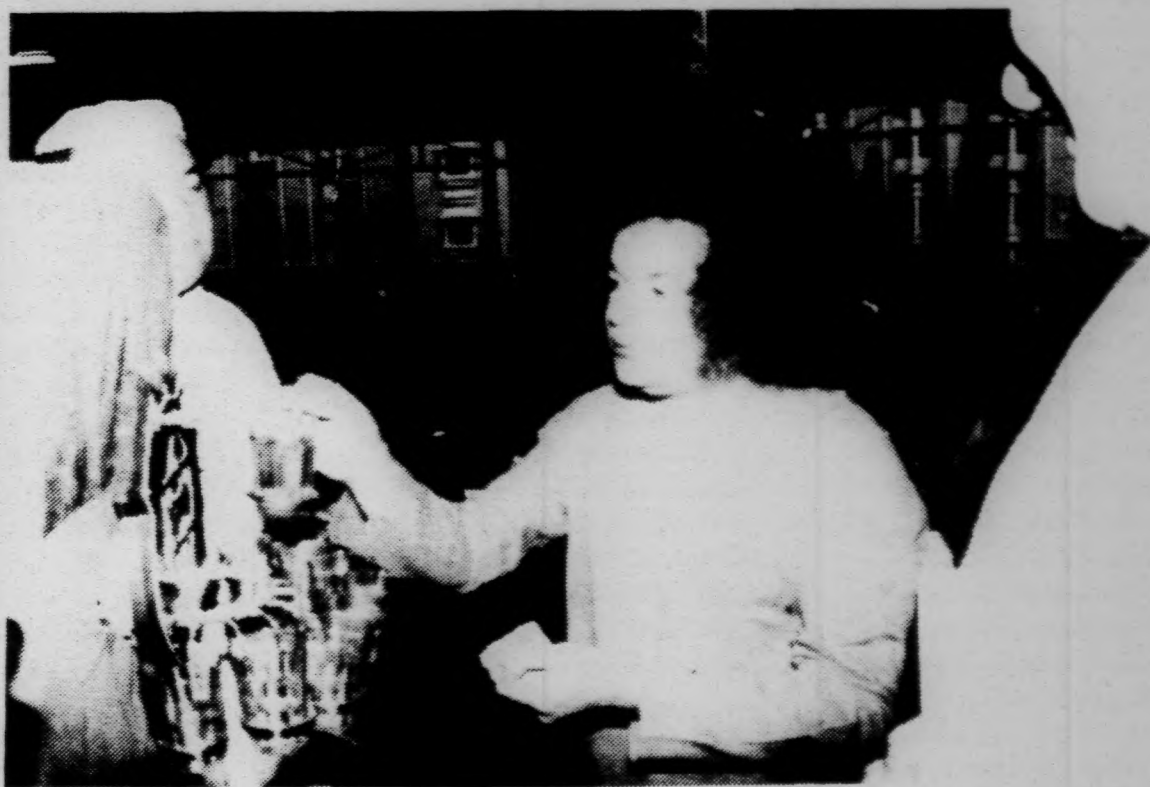
"Blessed Art Thou Oh Lord Our God, King of the Universe, Who Sanctified Us With His Light on this Sacred Night."

So goes the universal prayer said in Jewish homes all over the world as the lamps are lit for the Hanukah celebration, the Jewish festival of lights. Imagine the joy and thanksgiving when about two dozen Sai devotees of Jewish background who were present in Brindavan on December 3rd had the extraordinary chance to sing this prayer directly to Sri Sathya Sai Baba, and indeed be sanctified by His Light as He Himself lit the Menorah, the sacred lamp of Judaism. It was not only a joyous but an historic occasion as Bhagavan took the opportunity of this 2,000 year old festival to honor the Jewish

people and to recognize formally this ancient faith as one of the major religions that make up the greater Sai Family.

Bedecked with prayer shawls and capped with Yamulkas, the ritual head covering, the Jewish devotees, together with Bhagavan and His retinue, walked in solemn procession from His residence to the darshan tree, singing all the while the Hebrew chant, 'Havenu Shalom Aleichem' (May Peace Be With You). At the tree a large banner decorated with beautiful flower designs announced 'Happy Hanukah, Shalom - Shanti - OM'. From the ceiling of the shed hung floral wreaths in the shape of the traditional Jewish symbol, the Star of David. A beautiful light-branched Menorah, containing the sacred oil lamps, was set up alongside Bhagavan's flower bedecked chair.

Swami graciously permitted Himself to be garlanded and then lit the first light as the prayers were sung in Hebrew and English. He seemed so delighted and happy with the ceremony, giving paadnamaskar (touching the feet of a Holy Being) to many and blessing the Hanukah sweets that were handed out afterwards as the Lord's prasada or blessed food. The children participated by lighting the other Hanukah lights. There were many teary eyes throughout the gathering as Baba continued on to give darshan, with the Hebraic melodies as background.



Bhagavan Lighting the Menorah

Although very few of the Jewish devotees had met more than once before or had a chance to rehearse any of the chants, through His Grace our memories served us well and our tongues performed and together we sang some of the lilts of our childhood commemorating this festival of light. It was a miracle how it all came together, from finding the old Menorah in the City of Bangalore to preparing the flower arrangements and the decorated cakes, to singing harmoniously and praying together, rediscovering our Jewish heritage within the context of the one universal Sai religion, the religion of Love. It took only one look to know that this day Swami was particularly pleased.

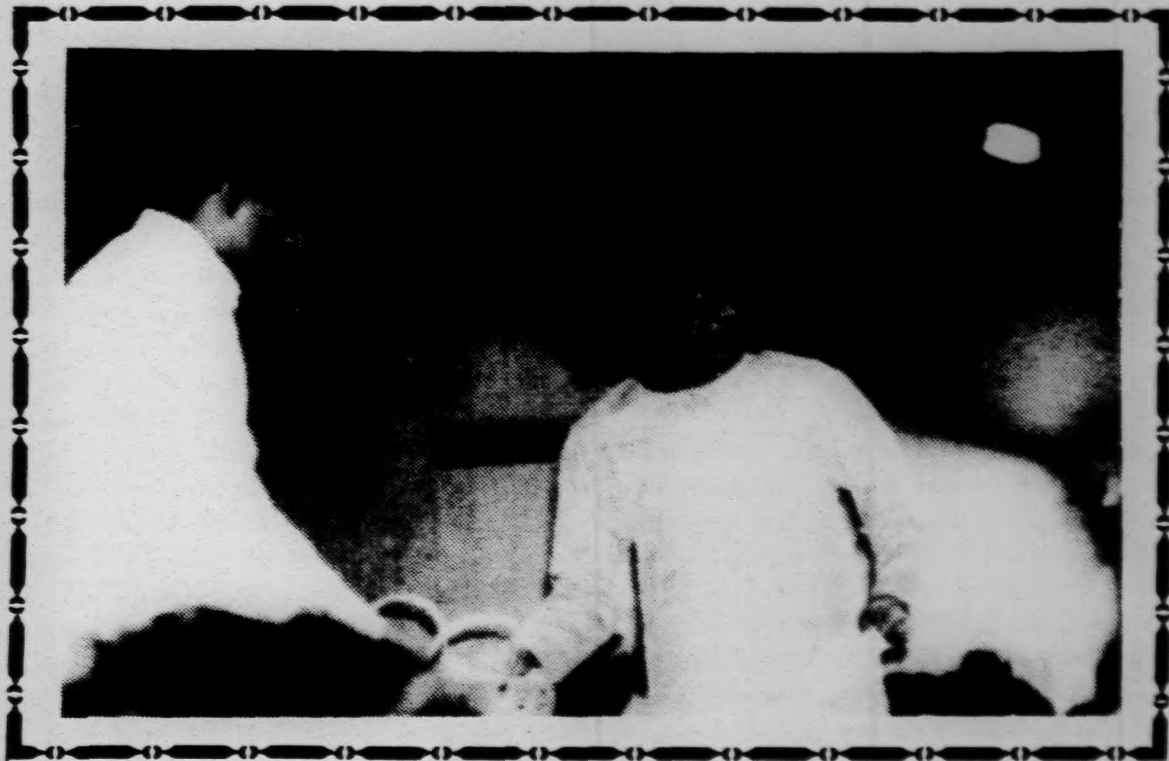
This happy event took me back to my boyhood days in Germany, when even amidst the fear and terror of life under the Nazis, I remember how wonderfully joyous was our yearly celebration of Hanukah. Starting with one jyoti (light) on the first day, every day thereafter for eight days one more light would be lit by the children, until on the last day the Menorah was ablaze with light symbolizing God's commandment to ancient Israel, "Be a light to lighten the Nations". Every day there would be gifts and special sweets for the children.

It was a festival of rejoicing for on this day in December of the year 164 B.C. the Jews under the leadership of Judas Maccabaeus threw off the yoke of the Syrian tyrant Antiochus. Antiochus had invaded Jerusalem, desecrated the Temple and forbade the observance of the Sabbath and the reading of the Torah, the sacred law of Moses. After cleansing the Temple the Jews reconsecrated the Holy of Holies, the simple chamber of unhewn stone in the innermost heart of the Temple where God's Name was installed. Here they relit the eternal flame. But only one small jug of pure olive oil that had been blessed with the appropriate ritual sacraments could be found anywhere on the holy grounds. The little cruse contained hardly enough oil to last one evening but miraculously the holy flame burned for eight days until new oil could be procured and consecrated.

This miracle of light is symbolic of man's purification of his inner temple and by his own efforts rekindling the holy flame and the holy name therein. Then God through His loving Grace multiplies man's small efforts a hundredfold and sets man's spiritual heart ablaze with the splendorous divine light. This is the deeper meaning of the festival of Hanukah, which in Hebrew means dedication.

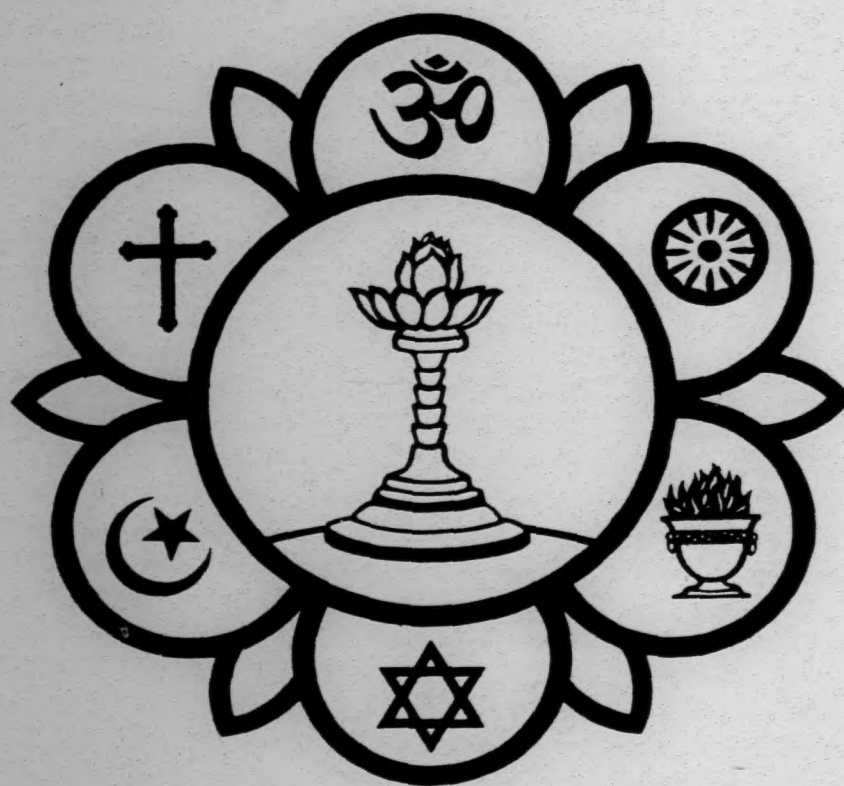
Every year this festival of dedication and light takes on a new meaning, for the struggle of the forces of light with those of darkness has continued throughout the ages. For every human being this struggle is a subtle one inside his or her own heart. For a Jew living in the days of the Maccabees the philosophical choice then as now was between the materialistic life which focused on the world and centered on man, and the spiritual life which focused on the higher reality and centered on God. At that time the Hellenistic culture of Ancient Greece had been spread far and wide by the conquering armies of Alexander the Great, and had become the prevalent mode of living for 'civilized' and upper-class people throughout Western Asia. It represented what today would popularly be called the "good life", glorifying the mind and body of man and the worldly enjoyments that he can experience through his senses. Man was the measure of all things. The center of man's seeking and higher pursuits were the gymnasias and the baths and the debating halls, rather than the house of God. It was a culture that was easily attractive to even the best of men for it combined the creative spirit of inquiry with idolization of the body-beautiful. With this worldly view went a state religion which through its gods and legends seemed to mythologize all the anger, hate, lust, envy and greed of unregulated land-locked hearts.

Antiochus, a king of exceptional pride, saw himself as charged with a holy mission to civilize the peoples of his vast domain and install the Hellenistic way of life throughout his kingdom. In this, the Jews in the little province of Judea were a particularly bothersome thorn in his plans. The Jews believed it was the one omnipotent and omnipresent God who ruled over man not man who created the gods. They believed that the first loyalty of man was not to a king but to the world of God transmitted through the sacred teachings given to Moses and other great Prophets. They believed that human life was not for the purpose of sensual and worldly enjoyments but for the sacred purpose of purifying and realizing the transcendent spirit in man. That man's life must be filled by glorifying the name of God, observing His commandments, and kindling the light of brotherhood so that God would be pleased with His kingdom here on Earth. For the Jews, the people of the Book, human society could only prosper when it was governed by God's Law and ruled over by God's Love, not by Man's force and greed; government was seen as God's instrument for establishing justice and order in the relationships between individuals and peoples.



It was in this context that our dearest Baba graced our small group of Jewish devotees by calling us in for a talk on December 1st. In that interview He mentioned that the Jews were an ancient people who

had received the direct word of God through the Vedas and had preserved that sacred treasure throughout their long history. He said that since the Jews had not been a significant religious group in India, the Sai Emblem representing the five major religions of India had not included the Jewish symbol. But henceforth, He gave permission for the overseas Centers to include the Star of David in their Sai Emblem in recognition of Judaism's role both as a world religion and a people with a great spiritual tradition, who through their Bible, have had a profound influence on the course of mankind. A six-symbol design for a Sai Emblem was proposed to Bhagavan for use by American centers, which He promptly approved.



Two days after this interview He blessed us with the celebration of Hanukah which takes its place along with Deepavali and other great festivals of light in many cultures and religious traditions, proclaiming the ultimate triumph of God's Love and Light. May all beings be happy and live in His Light forever.

Shalom, Shalom, Shalom.

CHILDREN'S CORNER
THE FIVE COW WOMAN



There were two women, living across the road from each other, in a neighborhood; one had five cows and the other had just one. The richer woman was wasteful in habits, very extravagant and careless.

So, she used to borrow milk from the woman with one cow, and the latter was helping her, in spite of the fact that she had a large family. When she had thus borrowed about 50 quarts of milk, the cow of the poorer woman died, and she went to the other woman and wanted her to return the milk loaned, at a rate of a quart per day. At this the wealthy woman became angry and swore in court that she had never borrowed any milk.

"Why should I, owning five cows, go to the woman with one cow for the loan of milk?" she asked. The magistrate was a shrewd man who sympathized with the woman whose cow had died. He knew how to get at the truth. He gave each of them four buckets of water and asked them to wash their feet and come back to court. The five-cow-woman poured all the four buckets in one stream on her feet and came in with all the dirt intact. The one-cow-woman cleaned her feet by skillful use of one bucket only and she left the other three buckets untouched. The act of washing the feet revealed their character and the magistrate had no hesitation in convicting the culprit. The one-cow-woman must have saved and the five-cow-woman must have wasted and been in perpetual want.

You judge a person by his conduct, his character, as revealed in his actions. No other witness or proof is needed.

paraphrased from CHINNA KATHA

FOR WOMEN

Women should strive to achieve the knowledge of the Soul and live every moment in the consciousness of her being only the Atma (Godly); she must evince always a desire to become one with the Divine Consciousness. The home where the woman is such and where the husband and wife are leading their lives in the shade of great ideals, where they, together sing the glory of the Name of the Lord and spend themselves in good deeds, where there reigns Truth, Peace and Love, where regular reading is done from holy books, where the senses are under control and where there is equal treatment for all creation prompted by the knowledge of the basic unity of all creation, such a Home is certainly Heaven on Earth.

from Dharma Vahini

CHRISTMAS 1980 AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM



Because of many foreign devotees representing various Christian faiths at Prasanthi Nilayam during the holidays, Swami was asked if there could be a small Christmas program in the ashram. His reply was a very positive, *Yes, do*. The program took hold of the imagination of many western devotees, and practice sessions for Christmas carols were started. Interest was generated until hundreds of voices from several countries of the world joined in and became a part of the celebration.

Thus enthusiasm was exemplified by a request to have a party for the children. It was thought that the party should be a time for sharing not just receiving. Out of this concept came the idea that each child in the ashram receiving a bag of "surprises" (usually candy, etc.) would share some part of that package with the children of the nearby village of Puttaparthi. The excitement of giving was so well received by the youngsters that on Christmas day there was what seemed to be a small mountain of "sweets and goodies" to be distributed to the village children and the poor.

In the meantime, the officials of the ashram were more than gracious in accommodating the "foreigners" and helped in every way possible to create a holiday spirit.

An elegant Christmas card was made for Swami with each country signing their own message of love. The card was presented to Bhagavan on Christmas day.

Carols were sung in many languages. The Swedish people taught the devotees one of their Christmas songs. Those who spoke Spanish presented the Little Drummer Boy and the Germans did Silent Night. The Italians distinguished themselves with a beautiful hymn of St. Francis and the Americans made a special point of singing White Christmas as they were told Swami likes that selection.

The program was presented in the "new round building" courtyard on the grounds of Prasanthi Nilayam on Christmas eve.

Christmas morning, before dawn, the carols were repeated as Bhagavan gave dawn darshan. Sri Baba later asked that the whole program be repeated in the temple for the college students and Indian people so all could share the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ.

Later in the day the sweets were distributed to the children of the village and there was a meal served to the poor people who came from miles around to partake of this generosity.

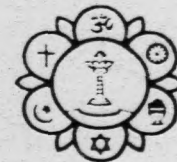
The college students then surprised the foreign guests by putting on a lively display of native dances, gymnastics and ending with the arrival of "Santa Claus" and the singing of Jingle Bells!

The whole event had an International flavor, a feeling of oneness and of love. A spirit of brotherhood filled the hearts of all who were privileged to be present.



* * *

A DEVOTEE'S TALK AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM



We have come to Prashanti Nilayam to praise and honor the Blessed Lord. To some who are gathered here and to a large part of mankind, the Lord whose birth is being celebrated today is Jesus of Nazareth. He lived 2000 years ago, but His presence continues to be felt in the hearts of hundreds of millions of His devotees everywhere. He lived His short life with such nobility and such sacred purpose that He managed to rise above the confines of His culture and to rise above all human limitations to manifest His divinity in its full splendor. His was a Holy Birth and He came on a Sacred Mission. He was a great world teacher of love and compassion, and He so transformed His followers that they recognized in Him the long-promised and long-awaited Messiah - the Savior who redeems His people. So they called Him the Christ, and today more than one-third of the peoples of the world adore Him as the Lord, Jesus Christ.

For most of us who are gathered here and consider ourselves so very fortunate to be called here, the Blessed Lord whom we have come to praise and to honor and to adore on this Christmas Day, as we bless

Him and praise Him on all days, is God Himself in His full, infinite glory - the King of Kings, the Avatar of this Age, our dearest, sweetest, and most beloved Lord, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

When Jesus spoke of the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God, telling of the Blessed Father in Heaven who had sent him, it was Sai of whom He spoke. Again it was Sai whom Jesus addressed when He prayed to God: "Our Father who are in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven".

So we who have been so very much blessed to be called here by Bhagavan cannot really speak of Jesus - the gentle, selfless, compassionate, Divine Being, who was the Son, without also speaking of the grandeur, the majesty, the splendor, and the glory of Sai who was the Father and who sent Jesus to lead the way. Now, 2000 years later, it is the Father Himself who has come to finally lead the world out of this Kali Age which has darkened and plagued mankind's history for 5000 years.

The human mind is barely able to comprehend the awesome fact of the advent of God in human form. To draw us near Him, He graces us with signs and wonders and miracles. Then He fills us with His divine Love which transcends all possibilities of human love, and which melts our deepest doubts and fears and feelings of loneliness. He gives us words and teachings that reach deep into the core of our being and he shows us that all of the glitter of this world is worth nothing but pain and heartache. Thus He awakens in us the yearning for a deeper Truth, an inner Peace and Joy which only He can give and that the world itself can never provide.

So we begin to strive on the spiritual path and we struggle, we suffer, we experience, we mature, we discover, we find our inner source, we gather wisdom, and slowly, with His Grace, we transform. Slowly we advance from one stage to another.



By Rembrandt

When the time is ripe, the blossom falls off to make way for the fruit. The little caterpillar, earthbound and limited, sheds its form and turns into a butterfly and flies away. Such seems to be the Godward path. And as Swami has told the Christ story to us, such was also the Life of Jesus as He developed His divine qualities. While in body-consciousness, Jesus viewed Himself as the Servant, the Messenger of God, and in the tradition of the Bible separate from God, what has been called the dwaitha. . . or the dualistic stage. Then He immersed himself for 12 years in intense spiritual Sadhana, after which He journeyed as a pilgrim to temples and monasteries in Kashmir and Tibet, and other Holy Places in the Himalayas. There He became imbued with the sacred teachings of the Vedas. And His heart flowered with the Divine Current. Through His one-pointed devotion and through God's Grace, in time the Young Isa became transformed into the Son of God, developing some of the authority and power and luminous splendor of the Father Himself.

When he was close to 30 years of age, He left behind the sacred places of Bharat and returned to His native land of Judea to preach the Word of God to the Jews. It was in this effulgent state of God-consciousness that He manifested Himself as the Messiah to His followers. Finally, through the agony and passion of the Crucifixion, He came into His full Atmic splendor and declared "I and the Father are One". It was then that He merged with Sai into the one Ocean of divine Love and Bliss, to become the Cosmic Christ.

On these Holy days, Swami frequently advises us to examine our own movement on the God path, to see how far we have progressed. Are we still totally earth-bound in body-consciousness? Or are we ready to move on and to let go of God and fly away? Swami told us that by His life, Jesus has shown us the way. And repeatedly Swami has also told us that we ourselves are sacred and divine souls and by gathering us unto Him as He has, we all have a right to call ourselves the messengers of God with a holy mission to help heal the wounds of mankind and bring the good news of the advent of the Father, Lord Sai, to the far reaches of the world.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, can't you just feel the imminence of a world-wide explosion about to happen that will shake the whole Earth to its foundations for ages to come? I am not speaking of predictions of calamities or catastrophies which may or may not happen. I am talking about an explosion of Good that we can be



By a Byzantine Painter

absolutely sure is going to happen. I am talking about the explosion of Sai consciousness over the whole world - the spiritual revolution about to burst forth.

Look around, and you will see us coming from everywhere - from North America, from South America, from North and South Africa, from all over Europe and India, from the Orient and from Southeast Asia, from Western Asia, from Australia and New Zealand and the Pacific. And you may wonder about the Communist countries . . . I remember Swami saying *Don't say Communist, say 'come you next'*. So they too will soon be represented here.

We are the modern-day Apostles, in kinship with Christ's Apostles, fired up as they were with the Holy Spirit of Sai's Grace, on a mission to bring Hope back to mankind. Already we have

reached very high to have had this golden chance to come so close to the Avatar and have God Himself as our Guide. But as Swami has told us, this is still only the first step on the path. Are we ready to go in the footsteps of Jesus to make the next step to where we too may be called the Sons of God?

Bhagavan Himself has called us His Beloved Children and has told us that we not only have the right but the duty to claim our divine inheritance. Again Jesus has shown us the way. He took the Ten Commandments of Israel and the Laws of Moses, and the Books of the Prophets and distilled them all down into two basic principles on which He laid the foundations of His whole life and teachings. They were "You shall Love the Lord, your God, with all your Heart, with all your Soul, and with all your Mind," and "You shall Love your neighbor as yourself". But not just your neighbor, you shall love your enemy, even if he hates you and curses you and despises you. You shall love him as much as you love yourself and as much as you love those nearest and dearest to you. Thus shall you live in Peace and Brotherhood with all men.

Now, 2000 years later, Sai has gone even further by reminding us of the ancient adwaithic teachings, that we must see and experience everything and everyone as exactly identical with ourselves, for there is only the one Self. There is no other. And that Self is Love, that Self is God.

So here is our direction from the Lord for our next step. By living these precepts, Bhagavan told us, Jesus earned the right to be called the Son of God. By elevating our own lives to the sacredness and nobility of Jesus' life, bringing joy and love and compassion and righteousness to all we touch, we too can call ourselves Emmanuel, the Anointed One, the Son of God, and deserve to sit at the footstool of our dearest Father, Lord Sai.

As our hearts expand, we see only the good in all of God's creations. Swami tells the story of Jesus and His disciples coming upon the body of a dead dog lying in the road. Some of His disciples tried to direct Him around this unpleasant scene, but Jesus went very close and looked at the remains for some time and said "Someone must have loved this animal very much to have taken such good care of it when it was alive. See how perfect it's teeth were - so pearly and shiny and white". When most of us would have been revolted, He saw only the positive and the good.



By Aelbrecht Bouts

We are told that in the early days of Christianity the newly-formed community of Christians lived in constant joy and brotherhood, full of hope and love, and God-consciousness. This is what attracted so many new converts to them wherever they went. One of the Roman commentators, writing about the Christian captives he saw, noticed with astonishment how happy they were and how much they loved each other, and how they loved everyone and everything around them, and how much they sang whenever they came together. Imagine these simple and innocent folk filled with their belief in the Savior, their Beloved Lord Jesus Christ, pitted against the

pagan might of Imperial Rome, the conqueror of the ancient world. These tenderest of flowers, caught in a thicket of thorns, what chance of survival would you give them? yet in time, not only Rome, but all the wild, war-like tribes of Europe and the barbarian hordes coming down from the East and the North succumbed to Christ's message and bowed down to the Prince of Peace.

In this way, slowly over the centuries, Sai has been transforming man, not only in Europe but everywhere in the world. He has used the great religious streams - Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islamic and others, each appropriate to its place and time, as His instruments for directing man away from his lower impulses and towards his higher essence. Slowly, Sai has been preparing mankind for the coming of the Father.

Now man has reached a point in his evolution for the next big step forward. On the one hand, man already has the power to destroy himself and all higher forms of life on the planet, but he has also reached a level of maturity and global mobility, not only a physical mobility but also a psychological and intellectual mobility, which permits him to break free of prejudices and boundaries which have kept him tied down over the centuries.

As we can see right here amongst us, we are breaking down not only national barriers but religious barriers, racial barriers, language and economic barriers that have kept us from loving each other. We who are here have reached this state because our Divine Teacher is here amongst us, and His Grace has been showered upon us. This Grace is available to all of Humanity, which will soon learn of its glorious destiny. Soon, everywhere man will reach out across the fence to his brother, to revive an ancient dream of world brotherhood, with all mankind united through the common bond of Love. That



Detail from a painting by George Rouault

dream, so long deferred, is now about to become reality on a global scale. What we see happening in this gathering right here we shall see in the years to come, multiplied tenfold and then a hundredfold and a thousandfold and in time a millionfold, as the World Family begins to take shape under the banner of the One Religion, the Religion of Love.

Baba has given Himself 250 years and three incarnations to complete this task of bringing mankind to a new Golden Age. He has told us that there is no power on Earth or in the Heavens that can change His mission even one iota. What He has willed shall come to pass. How fortunate we are to be called in during these early beginnings of the Sai Era now unfolding. It is a Golden Age that will brighten the world for millenia to come. Let us dedicate our lives to Him and let us go out and invite the Peoples of the World to dedicate their lives to Him and thereby make His Advent one long triumphant procession of Mankind returning to its Father, like the prodigal son, returning home.

At the same
time, let
us also
intensify
our own
Sadhana and
move on
through the
stages of
our evolu-
tion. Jesus
has shown us
that in one
lifetime,
lived with
sacred pur-
pose, man
can rise to
the
heights of
Atmic
splendor



and fully realize his inherent divinity, as in the end he merges with the Blessed Father.

We do not have to die on the Cross to come to Sai. Only the I and the me has to die. Swami has given us directions on what we have to do. He said, *We must always Follow the Master, that Inner Voice; and we must Face the Devil and Fight to the End, and Finish the Game.* That in essence is also the Christ story and the Christ message to the world.

May Bhagavan bless us all to reach His Lotus Feet. May He bless all of Humanity with Joy and Happiness. May the Kingdom of Sathya Sai consume this whole World in its Love and inaugurate the reign of Peace here on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Jai Sai Ram

Given by a Devotee in the
Divine Presence on December
25, 1980



In the early days there were these differences between the Jews and the Christians, but they are not appropriate today. Today the standard should be the brotherhood of man, based on the Divine Love of God for all mankind. Each religion should follow that which is its own and not follow a path which belongs to others, but which is not their own. Follow your own tradition, but do not hate others. Be broad-minded, as are the followers of Sai. Do not cause agitation.

NEW PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

Society for the Advancement
of the Individual
7911 Willoughby Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046
Phone: (213) 656-9373

There are five new color photos of Sri Sathya Sai Baba taken during the Birthday Celebration, and the Third World Conference.

1. Swami wearing a white robe and seated on the joola (swing) during his 55th birthday celebration.8 by 10 - \$3.50.
2. Bhagavan posed in a large blue velvet chair.8 by 10 - \$3.50.
3. Seated again in the blue velvet chair, slightly different pose.8 by 10 - \$3.50.
4. Baba in darshan with his hand in abhaya hasta, or the blessing pose.8 by 10 - \$3.50.
5. A full figure picture of Sri Baba in darshan.8 by 10 - \$3.50.



NAME CHANGE

The new name of the American Sai Organization, reflecting the changes made at the Third World Conference in India this November is the Sathya Sai Baba Council of America. See article on page 2.

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS

PRECED E EACH LOCATION WITH SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF:

NEW CENTER, WELCOME

- FLORENCE, OREGON (formerly Eugene, Oregon) James Peden, 06784 Canary Road, Westlake, OR 97493, phone (503) 997-7383. Bhajans Thursday 7 P.M., Study Circle Sunday 8 P.M.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF:

- LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO, Barbara Scritchfield, 306 Meadow Lane, White Rock, Los Alamos, NM 87544, phone (505) 672-1475. Bhajans Thursday 8 P.M.
- LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA, Wynona Wynn, 3687 Via Lato, Lompoc, CA 93436. Bhajans Sunday 8 P.M.

Please delete from Center list: All Sathya Sai Baba Centers outside the United States, see article on page 2, section number 1.



NOTICE: In a recent issue of the VEGETARIAN TIMES magazine, a quotation attributed to Sathya Sai Baba predicts certain worldwide disasters in the coming years. When shown the article, Bhagavan stated that the quotation is entirely incorrect and that Baba has not made such statements as they are untrue. Please be wary of quotations of sensational nature as they are entirely uncharacteristic of Baba's way of speaking and teaching.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Part II of an interview given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba to the Senior Editor of BLITZ, a news magazine and reprinted courtesy of BLITZ PUBLICATIONS, Bombay, India.

SYMBOL OF LOVE AND DIVINITY

Q: What is the significance of the Vibhuti (holy ash) and the trinkets that you materialise and gift to people? Is there any need for a Godman to demonstrate such miracles which any magician can conjure?

Baba: So far as I am concerned this is evidence of my Divinity. It is not by any means an exhibition of Divinity. All performances of magic, as you know, are done for the sake of income. These are tricks of the magician's trade. They constitute a kind of legalised cheating, the transfer of an object from one place to another by a trick of the hand which goes unnoticed. They involve no siddhi (occult power) or miraculous power.

What I do is quite a different act of creation. It is neither magic, nor is it siddhi power either. For one thing, I seek no return. For another, I do not cheat people by transferring objects, but I create them. Again, I do so not because of any need or desire of exhibition of my powers. For me this is the kind of visiting card to convince people of my love for them and secure their devotion in return. Since love is formless, I do materialisation as evidence of my love. It is merely a symbol.

Q: Still I do not understand why you should materialise rings, bracelets, watches and those kind of trinkets?

TALISMAN OF PROTECTION

Baba: Most people desire talismans symbolic of my protection. So I provide them. When they are in trouble they FEEL the grip of the ring, bracelet or watch to remember me and call me to their rescue so that I can help them. On the other hand, if I give them something that they cannot wear, they are likely to store it and forget about it.



The main thing is that these trinkets or talisman, by whatever name you call them, give people a sense of security and protection they need in time of trouble or crisis and create a symbolic link covering the long distances between them and myself. When the devotees need me, these objects flash the message as if by wireless and I instantly come to their rescue.

Q: I am sorry to be so persistent, Swamiji, but isn't the gift of an Omega or HMT watch an act of cheating the company or breach of its patent?

Baba: I assure you there is no such thing. It would be cheating the company or breaching the patent if it was a case of transfer of the watch from one place or the other. But I do not transfer, I totally create. Whatever I will instantly materialises. I know of no company that has complained about any breach of patent.

SIGNIFICANCE OF VIBHUTI (HOLY ASH)

Q: What about Vibhuti materialised by you? We would like to know its relevance because your critics are trying to discredit you by sending round magicians who produce exact replicas of Vibhuti.

Baba: What I materialise is a manifestation of Divinity with a potent significance as well as symbolisation. It is symbolic of the cosmic, immortal and infinite nature of all forms of God, Atma or the Spirit - that is, what is left when everything worldly, transient and changeable has burnt away.

I have spoken to you of the imperative of a desireless life. After Shiva had burnt the God of Desire, Kama, into a heap of ashes, he adorned himself with the ash to shine as the conqueror of desire. When Kama was destroyed Prema reigned as the Goddess of Love. Such is the significance of ash.

In the first place, it is symbolic of the life-death cycle in which everything ultimately reduces itself to ash. "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou returnest." Ash or dust is the final condition of things. It cannot undergo any further change. In the spiritual context, it constitutes a warning to the receiver to give up desire, to burn all passions, attachments and temptations, and makes one pure in thought, word and deed.

It is in order to press home this lesson that I materialise ash for those who come to me with love and devotion. Like the other materialisations, it also acts as a talisman healing the sick and giving protection to those who need it. It is the symbol of Divinity, quite different from the magician's trickery mentioned by you.

MIRACLES OF HEALING

Q: You are believed to have performed miraculous cures to the extent of resurrecting the dead. There are cases where you reportedly have saved people from drowning and other accidents in distant places. Medical experts have attested to remote controlled surgical operations performed by you. How do you manage these?

Baba: By my own sankalpa - that is, divine will and power. As an Avatar this power is intrinsic, inherent, total and natural to my will and decision. I need no mantra (mystical formulae) no sadhana (spiritual practice) no tantra (sacred writings) and no yatra (pilgrimage) to perform the so called miracles which are natural to my state. My powers are simply the expression or assertion of the reality of Godliness which merges me with everything, everywhere, at all times and places. The miracles belong to the boundless power of God.

Now coming to the main points of your question, this healing phenomenon has a dual aspect. I can cure, save, even resurrect people provided they are in a spiritually receptive condition. It is like the positive and negative currents of electricity. My capacity to heal can be compared to the positive current. Your devotion to me is the negative current. Once the two come together, the devotion provides what is called the miracle of healing.

It is man's mind that is really responsible for his illness or health. He himself is the cause or motivator or either. So when it comes to healing or curing, the necessary faith has to be created within his mind for the purpose. All I do is to invest him with the confidence, will and power to cure himself. It is my abounding love reciprocated by the intensity of the devotees' faith in me that produced the desired result.

NOT SIDDHIS, NOR MAGICAL TRICKS

Q: So these are not siddhic powers or magical tricks, as your critics suggest?

Baba: They are neither magical tricks nor SIDDHIC (occult power) powers. These can come to everybody with the appropriate discipline and yoga exercises, but my powers to protect, heal and save people and materialise objects originate in God and can be used only by an Avatar. They are in no way designed, disciplined or developed, but flow from Cosmic Power.

Q: Some say that you command invisible Spirits which can transfer objects from one place to another on your orders?

Baba: There is no need for me to command invisible Spirits since my own Divine Will materialises the objects. I am everything, everywhere, omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent; and so whatever I will instantly happens. Like the qualities of truth, love and peace, these are things that generate the Atmic (Godly) or Cosmic forces behind the universe.

Q: Your followers at home as well as abroad claim positive evidence of the presence of Baba in their innermost hearts. Some have written of you as their indwelling God. What is the explanation of this phenomenon?

THE IN-DWELLING GOD

Baba: This is the grace begotten of my love for them reciprocated by their devotion. After all, as I repeatedly say, we all belong to the same Divine Principle. The Godliness which is present in everybody in the form of a little spark exists in me as the full flame, and it is my mission to develop every little spark of God in everyone to the fullness of the Divine flame.

The first imperative of this development is that the receiver of the grace also provides from his or her side the devotion necessary to the consummation. Those who carry the presence of Baba in their hearts like an indwelling God belong to these kinds of devotees. They come to me, see me and hear me, experience my love for them and receive it with devotion. Thus, they become part of me and my Divinity.

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NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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