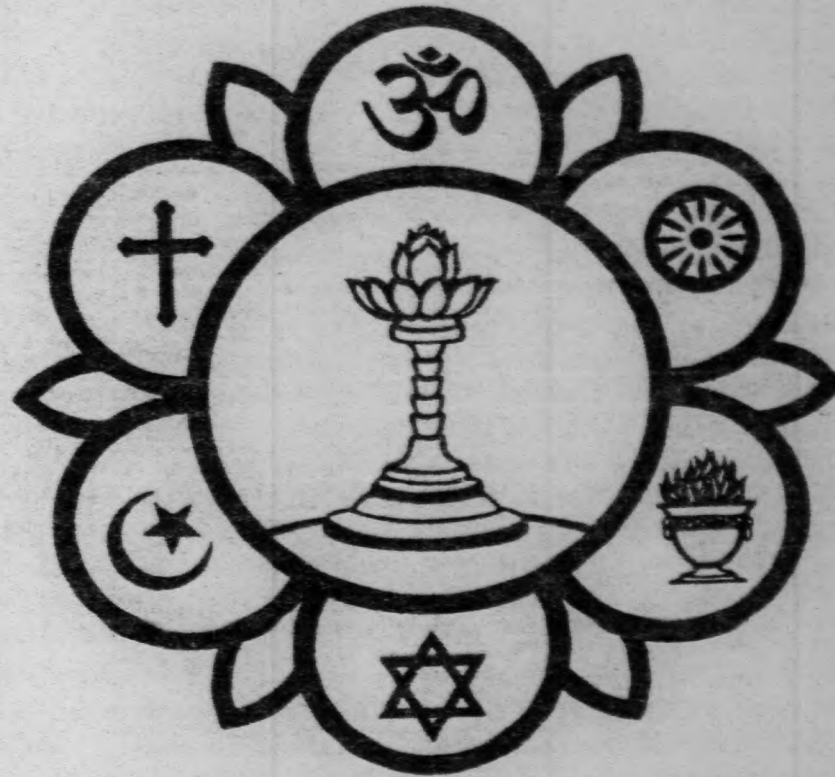


Sathya Sai Newsletter
1800 E. Garvey Avenue
West Covina, CA 91791

SATHYA SAI



Newsletter

WINTER - 1981-82

VOL. 6 NO. 2

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



SERVICE

Do not circumscribe your service to a fixed place once in awhile. Be alert to the call everywhere and at all times. Be ready with a smile, the kind word, the useful suggestion, the loving care and pleasant reply. Look for a chance to relieve and rescue. Service is the most paying form of austerity, the most satisfying and the most pleasurable. It springs out of love and spreads love in profusion.

Baba

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SATHYA SAI BABA COUNCIL OF AMERICA

It has come to our attention that various individuals, particularly in Southern California, have been raising money in the name of Sri Sathya Sai Baba to be used for particular alleged Sai Baba activities.

Please bear in mind, Sri Sathya Sai Baba has never granted to any person in the United States the right to use his name in raising funds for any activities, even though such activities are carried on in the name of Sri Baba.

It has come to our attention that certain individuals have been using Sai Baba's name in connection with travel agent and immigration transactions. Likewise, Baba has authorized no person to use his name in connection with such services.

All Center members and their friends and acquaintances should be on guard against the above misuses.

Many people commit sin and act wrongly and then ask for pardon. They again commit sin and do wrong deeds and again ask for pardon. In this way if you add and subtract all your life, how are you going to reach your destination? To keep on repenting and thinking that repentance alone will redeem us from all sin is not correct.

Baba

In the past six months there have been many rumors to the effect that Sri Baba has made statements of impending world disasters for 1982. The NEWSLETTER, through the auspices of the Sathya Sai Baba Council of America, wishes to state once again that this is simply not factual and all such rumors are to be ignored.

Even death is sweeter than the bondage of ignorance.

Baba

VIEWS FROM A WESTERN ROOM
A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY



It all began the first week of December with a request from darshan line. "Swami, can the foreigners get together for a Christmas musical offering?" Oh yes, be prepared. "When, Baba?" December 24th and 25th. "Swami, when can we begin practicing together and where?" After December 15th. I will give you one of the sheds. Be prepared.

A small group began to meet together and discussed the procedure for the musical offering. What shall we sing, carols, rounds, non-Indian language bhajans, songs? Sri Baba had warned there would be many foreigners. We wondered how to organize such a large group? Responsibilities were assigned. Scribes wrote out by hand hundreds of

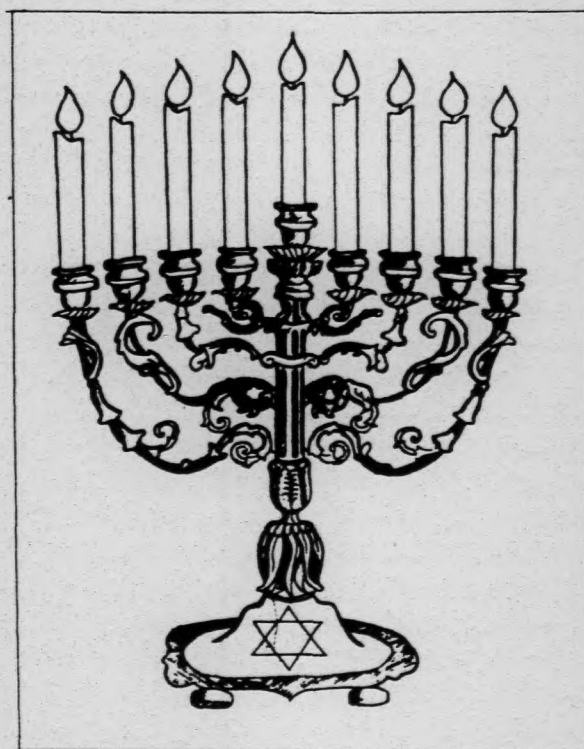
copies of carols and songs. "Hosts" were appointed. We would plan Christmas eve in the round building. If Swami were to come! What bliss! But what responsibility!

Slowly the people began to arrive. There were devotees from Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Malaysia, Indonesia, Italy, Spanish speaking countries, South Africa, New Zealand, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Fiji and the United States. Each country was asked to prepare two songs in their native language. Once again, more space was needed for practicing. Back to the office we went. We were given the key to a shed. From 6 A.M. until 10:30 at night groups were singing. At any time of the day or night one could hear voices ringing through the hills - in French, Italian, German, Indonesian and even Chinese. There were not enough Spanish people so the Italians sang Spanish. There were not enough French so the Italian singers sang in French too. Still more devotees arrived. We commandeered a third shed so all could practice.

On December 16th the sessions began in earnest. The Australians sang of their pilgrimage to Baba to the tune of Waltzing Mathilda.

The Canadians told how much they loved him to Alouette. The French prayed that the divine Sai would come and reveal his truth to a world that has forgotten it - "Venez, venez, venez" (come). A multi-language bhajan was created by the Italians, "Jesu gracie Jesu," thank you Jesus for bringing us to Sai, was sung in all of the different languages and resounded throughout the ashram. Someone arrived with music to the Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah. Eyebrows were raised, but a handful of visionaries began to practice the soprano, alto, tenor and bass parts. Only three or four people even knew how to read music. From 6 A.M. Hallelujah was heard rising into the sacred hills.

December 20th was the first night of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. A village carpenter was commissioned to build a Menorah (candelabra for nine candles). Each day thereafter we began by lighting the Hanukkah candles and singing rousing Hebrew songs, "Peace on earth, my brothers and sisters."



Swami told Jack Hislop one day on the verandah that Yes, he is Jesu Sai, and that we could write some songs referring to him in that form. Within three days we were singing "Jesu Sai the cosmic Christ," and "Sathya Sai Baba, Jesu Sai Baba" in English and Italian. Sri Baba's energy was coursing through us all.

Meanwhile the children were working on a play about the birth of Jesus. They wondered where to get a manger, some sheep and a camel? Grownups and children alike worked feverishly together, energized by Swami's divine fire. Two Danish textile designers made the sheep and camel from materials magically found lying about. Even the straw for the manger was delivered up by the divine set designer.

As the 24th approached, the inspired activity reached new heights. People from every country worked together and came to know each other in a way never before possible, and recognized that they were a true international Sai family. Hallelujah rose up into the hills, with over forty people singing this complex work, literally practicing from sun up to sun down.

A beautifully hand painted invitation was given to Swami saying, "Oh come let us adore you, on December 24th, 7 P.M. in the round building." On that magic evening, at 6:30 we were told that Swami would grace us with his divine attendance. There were over 2,000 foreigners present in that wonderful dream. We walked from the shed to the round building carrying candles and singing Silent Night. Thousands from the ashram community lined the way. Slowly we filed onto the verandahs, still singing. At exactly 7:15 Baba entered the courtyard as we were singing "Joy to the World, The Lord is Come." He raised both arms in greeting to all. Many eyes filled with tears of excitement and joy.

The program began with the first miracle of that Christmas. The inexperienced singers proclaimed "hallelujah" to their Lord in exquisite harmony. Swami was seen wiping tears from his eyes. He was then serenaded with canons (rounds) "Sathya Sai thy name so sweet, keep us always at thy feet, Shalom Hav-erim, Dona Nobis Pacem," and songs from the representatives of all the countries present. After 45 blissful minutes, he rose and, walking fully around the courtyard, blessed every person there. We were all in heaven.

Before dawn the next morning we walked in procession with candles, again singing carols. When we arrived at Baba's verandah he graced us with his darshan, and we thanked Sai in eight languages - "Jesu grac-
cie Jesu." It was a sweet and beautiful darshan at dawn on Christmas morning.

Later that day we were invited by Swami to sing in the Poornachandra auditorium after his discourse. First came Sri Baba's college girls into the hall singing a rousing bhajan to commemorate their annual alumni day. Several guest speakers presented their talks. Then Swami began his Christmas message. He reminded us that when love and light



are seated in our hearts there will be no room for anything else, no hatred nor darkness (the discourse will appear in full in SANA-THANA SARATHI).

After his discourse Baba sat in the audience, and from there conducted the Christmas offerings. Handel's Hallelujah was sung again, and Sai seemed to laugh appreciatively at the line "and He shall reign for ever and ever." From then on Sri Sathya Sai Baba reigned over the Christmas Day selections, choosing each country to sing. Baba sat in the audience giving directions and making jokes. The Poornachandra seemed to be transformed into an intimate living room. We were like a loving family gathered around a Christmas tree.

The gem of the evening was the children's offering, a sweetly performed tableau of the Nativity, narrated and accompanied by carols in four-part harmony. Swami joined the children at the end for photos, and a more charming sight couldn't be imagined. After Arathi the crowd returned to their rooms with the heavenly ecstasy bestowed by Jesu Sai, in their hearts.

The next morning in an interview Baba said: *Are you happy? Yes, everybody is happy. Many nations, very happy. It was a golden opportunity.*

Marcia Jackson



VIEWS FROM A WESTERN ROOM

VIEWS FROM A WESTERN ROOM, a pilot journal experimentally published and distributed free to all Sathya Sai Baba Centers in America during the past year, has been discontinued. The Council of America has decided instead to make VIEWS a permanent feature of the SATIYA SAI NEWSLETTER. The theme of the original publication, and the subsequent series of VIEWS is that of approaching Sri Sathya Sai Baba from the standpoint of the highest tradition of Western culture. We invite works on this theme to be submitted for a regular column in this NEWSLETTER. Essays, art, poetry, stories and other forms exploring the relation of Western culture and spirituality regarding Sri Sathya Sai Baba should be sent directly to the NEWSLETTER (address on back cover) and earmarked V.F.A.W.R.

William Jackson, Coordinator

BHAJAN COLUMN



The moment during the Center program when we pass the vibuthi or holy ash and sing the vibuthi song is an opportunity for a very special moment of sadhana or spiritual practice.

Our sense of hearing takes in the words
and melody

Our sense of sight perceives the ash
Our sense of smell takes in the fragrance
Our sense of touch feels its texture
Our sense of taste draws it along the
tongue and into the body

In that instant all five of our human senses are withdrawn from the world around us and focused on the vibuthi as a gift from Baba, symbolizing his message that this material world is transient and only God is lasting.

That moment can be a time of enlightenment when our minds relate more clearly to a moment when our senses are free of desire. It can be a time of reprogramming our awareness for that moment in the future when our senses try to reassert old habits. It can be a time of release, giving our senses over to the Lord to lead us in surrender to Him.

Paramam Pavithram Baba Vibhuthim
Paramam Vichitram Lila Vibhuthim
Paramartha Ishtartha Moksha Pradatham
Baba Vibhuthim Idamasrayami

I take refuge in the supremely sacred vibuthi of Baba,
the wonderful vibuthi which bestows salvation,
the sacred state which I desire to attain.

Janet Bock, Co-chairperson
National Bhajan Committee

The vibuthi song may be found on BHAJAN LEARNING TAPE NO. II, C-13. It is available at a cost of \$6.00 at your local Sathya Sai Baba Center or at: S.A.I. Foundation, 7911 Willoughby, Los Angeles, California 90046, or call (213) 656-9373.



Illustration by
Joanne Thompson

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Listen my children and you shall hear of
Sai Baba's beginning, so gather near.
Born in a village of simple folk,
He was the town's favorite and always made joke.
He made special sweets with the wave of his hand,
And won at the sack race - Oh, he was grand!
One day it happened - he could wait no more. . .
He announced his advent as the Avatar.
He tossed the flowers to the ground,
And they formed Sai Baba - there wasn't a sound!
He'd been bit by a scorpion and lain very ill.
But now we all know, it was part of his will.
So when he recovered, he began his mission
To deliver mankind from sin and division.
To join us in one divine family.
Our Baba has come to end misery,
Devotees have prayed for centuries,
So he came 'cause he loves us,
It's simple you see!

By Ellen Lamm



Baba asked some children: *What is love?* and answering his own question said: *Love is ice cream!* There was laughter, and he continued: *It is sweet, it's joy, it's cool, it's pure.*



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BABA SPEAKS OUT ON THE DUTIES OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

The child should grow with the mother for the first five years of life. Many children do not know what the prema (love) of the mother is like. The mother should not hand over her responsibility during these years to someone else and be called simply "Mommy", as if she is some doll with which the child likes to play. Now the children of rich and "educated" parents are severely handicapped. They are deprived of the care and love of parents. They are handed over to the care of servants and ayahs, and they grow up in their company and learn their vocabulary and habits and styles of thought. This is very undesirable.

When the child is five years old, the father has to take up the task of bringing him (her) up. Then the child must be entrusted to a guru (spiritual teacher). The guru must teach him a standard of values with which to deal with the family, the village, the community, the country, and mankind.

SATHYA SAI SPEAKS VOL. II

Why blame the boys and girls when they do not respect the elders or obey their parents or believe in God or adhere to high principles of character? The elders are not providing them examples to show that those traits of character are useful or valuable or essential. They themselves do not know the secret of happiness; they offer to guide the children in the darkness, but their torches have no cells! Teachers, leaders of youth, all are in the same predicament. Very few have solid faith in the scriptures or in God; very few have the steadiness to stick to Dharma (righteousness) and brave the temptation to stray from the straight path. Prema (love) is a difficult virtue to cultivate, though it is a very valuable asset. Santhi (peace) is the one thing that makes life worthwhile.

SATHYA SAI SPEAKS VOL. II

Above all, realize that children are precious treasures. Yours is the great task of rearing them up to become devoted servants of God and sincere sadhakas (aspirants or devotees of God) of the spiritual path.

SATHYA SAI SPEAKS VOL. II

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

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

- THE PATH DIVINE, published by Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Education Trust. The book is for Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas (Education in Human Values) Group III. The manual is intended firstly for the teachers, so as to bring uniformity in teaching of the syllabus and as a general guidebook for the students. Much of the subject matter is from Sri Sathya Sai Pre-Sevadal, Bal Vikas Group III, 1978. Price: \$2.65
- SATHYA SAI BABA SPEAKS, VOL. X, compiled by N. Kasturi. Sathya Sai Baba gives 61 discourses on various subjects during the years 1975 through 1978. Price: \$4.20
- SATHYAM-SIVAM-SUNDARAM, PART IV, compiled by N. Kasturi. Events in the life of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, covering the years 1976 through 1979. Price: \$2.80
- THE TRUE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP, published by the World Council of Sri Sathya Sai Organization. Discourse given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba at the Darmakshetra, Bombay, May 12, 1981. Price: 40¢

Some Spanish language books will soon be available. Please check your next issue of the SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER, Spring 1982, for further information or contact the Book Center of America.

For a full list of items in stock at the Book Center, please send for a free price list to the above address.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE BOOK CENTER OF AMERICA AND
BIRTHDAY PUBLISHING CO.

P. O. Box 7722
San Diego, CA 91207

- SAIKRISHNALILA, by William Jackson. This is a book of the stories of the child Krishna gathered from Sri Sathya Sai Baba's writings and discourses and composed into a narrative. These beautiful stories with their inner meanings are divided

into 108 parts, each one beginning with a quotation from one of the various religious classics of the world. A timeless evocation of devotion to the Avatar. Price: \$3.60

FILM IN SPANISH:

Spiritual Advancement for the
Individual Foundation
7911 Willoughby
Los Angeles, California 90046
(213) 656-9373

- AURA OF DIVINITY, a popular and informative 70 minute film about Sathya Sai Baba is now available with a Spanish language sound track.

Rental price	\$40.00 plus postage
Purchase prices	Super 8 - \$330.00 plus postage
	16 mm - \$550.00 plus postage

For more information on movies, photographs, books, cassettes or video tapes dealing with Sri Baba, write or call for a free catalog.

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS

Communications Committee
Sathya Sai Baba Council of America
4727 Bonny Doon Road
Santa Cruz, California 95060

PRECED E EACH LOCATION WITH SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF:

WELCOME TO THE NEW CENTERS OF:

- MESA, ARIZONA, Edith Bischel, 2016 W. Obispo Ave., AZ 85201, (602) 966-9382.
- PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA, Bill Macklin, 19401 N. 7th St. #269, Phoenix, AZ 85024 (602) 869-8371.
- GREATER CLEVELAND, OHIO, S. Ramachandran, 2989 Chenoweth Rd., Akron, OH 44312 (216) 645-0809 (formerly Akron Center).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER:

- PHOENIX, ARIZONA, Dixie Cooper, 717 W. Virginia Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85007 (602) 258-3876.

- ROCK HILL, MISSOURI, Alan Woods, 907 N. Rock Hill Rd., St. Louis, MO 63119.
- LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO, Barbara Scritchfield, 2557-A 36th St., Los Alamos, NM 87544 (505) 662-5755.
- ALBANY, NEW YORK, Geetha D. Muralidhar, 88 Alpine Dr., Latham, NY 12110, no phone number as yet.
- FLUSHING, NEW YORK, Manjula Cohen, 41-24 163rd St., Flushing, NY 11358 (212) 358-2652.
- PLANETARIUM STATION, NEW YORK, Al Levy, 915 West End Ave., Apt. 5-A, New York, NY (212) 864-4955.
- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, Barney Lavin, 2635 S. Beaumont Ave., Kansasville, WI 53129 (414) 878-1702.

PLEASE DELETE:

- BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA
- TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA
- GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT
- MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT
- AKRON, OHIO

NEW PRESIDENTS:

- HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, Janet Bock, same address and phone number.
- ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, Doris Trask, same address, two phone numbers (505) 898-3186 or (505) 897-2558.
- BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, Glen Rothbard, same address, new phone number (212) 855-2907.
- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, Barney Lavin, see location under change of address.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER:

- BURLINGTON, VERMONT, Marsha Abrams, 50 Highland Terrace, South Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 658-6621.
- HANOVER, MARYLAND (was Glen Burnie), Vimala Pedisetti, 7510 Ackermann Court, Hanover, MD 21076 (301) 768-2410.
- WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA (was Lafayette), Betty Bowman, same address and phone number.

To enable us to keep this list accurate please send any information such as change of address, phone number, etc. to the Communications Committee, address page 12. Thank you for keeping us informed.

SAI'S MESSAGE TO DEVOTEES

Dear fellow Sai devotees:

The society of human beings, world over, is under the stress of rapid change in its code of values. That which was sacred, or even "normal" a few years ago is no longer so regarded by large numbers of people. The deterioration of discipline, sense of duty and dharmic (righteous) standards of behavior is very evident in the United States. This has prompted devotees from New York to California to ask if the role of the Sathya Sai Baba Centers is to be changed to meet changing conditions. That question was (and is) of primary importance. I put the question to Bhagavan:

Hislop: "Swami, please restate or redefine the goal, the objective of the American Sathya Sai Organization."

Sathya Sai Baba: *It is not just for the American, it is the objective for world-wide Sathya Sai Organizations.*

People the world over do not know they are divine. They do not even realize what it is to be human. They have ego, anger, greed, envy, lust and hatred. These are not human qualities; they are animal qualities.

Unless Sai devotees are, at the very least, human persons free of animal qualities or characteristics, how can such devotees suggest spiritual life to others? Such suggestions will have no impact.

If devotees in general are not yet free of animal characteristics, there should be in each Sathya Sai Baba Center two or three members who live a life as true human beings.

The individual does not progress alone. He is not separate from society and he must do his part to uplift the society. Therefore, the individual's work to free himself from animal characteristics and to live a spiritual life is not done for himself, but is done for all of God's creatures. The work of freeing the individual's nature from animal qualities is done with love for God, and done in His name and with His help. Each member of the Sathya Sai Baba Center should work very hard to purify the quality of his life, and the goal should be to lead a perfect life, an ideal life, to be an ideal exemplar of the divine teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

The world will respond to the ideal life of a Sai devotee. The world is yearning for the ideal life, and people will of their own accord adopt such a life if it comes into view. They will respond and they will follow such a life.

Hislop: "Swami, does that mean that our Centers should now move beyond the task of working with Center members and tackle the world?"

Sathya Sai Baba: The Center members must carefully work to become truly human before they venture to instruct the world.

The Centers are not yet a harmonious Sai family. In the Centers there are differences of opinion between individual members, different theories, and different ideas. This is only natural. But these should remain differences between individuals, some friction between the concerned individuals, and should not be allowed to become a friction in the Center.



Submitted by Dr. Jack Hislop

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - FOR THE EASTERN U.S.

February 6, Saturday - there will be a conference and training session for all E.H.V. (Education in Human Values) teachers in Poughkeepsie, New York. For more information call Charu Asher (914) 223-3077. See also top of page 17.

February 22, Monday - Members of the Pound Ridge, New York Center invite Sai devotees to join them in celebration of Mahashivaratri. If there are questions, please call Craig Smith (203) 637-3226 or Suman Govindan (203) 329-2582. See also page 17.

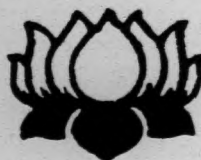
March 5-7 - SADHANA RETREAT - On the weekend of March 5-7 a sadhana retreat will be held at the Inn of the Spirit in the town of Yulan, Sullivan County, New York. The emphasis will be on bhajans, meditation, and other aspects of personal sadhana. The cost will be \$34 per person and the group will be limited to 55 in number. Centers will receive additional information when the program is completed. For further information call Anne Sohani (212) 939-1464 (home) or (212) 636-8204 (office).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - FOR THE WESTERN U.S.

May 29-31 RETREAT - It is a pleasure to announce that the Santa Ana Center will host a retreat at Camp Marston in Julian, California on Memorial Day weekend, May 29, 30, 31, 1982. Julian is in the mountains east of San Diego and the camp is a YMCA facility. For further information contact Patricia M. Macy, Chairman, Retreat Committee, Sri Sathya Sai Baba Center of Santa Ana, 25904 Robin Circle, Mission Viejo, California 92691.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAHA-SIVARATHRI

This year, 1982, Maha-Sivarathri will occur during the evening hours of Monday, February 22 through the early morning of Tuesday 23. For more information see page 22.



ACTIVITIES OF SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

The sole object of Sathya Sai organizations, the very breath on which they thrive, is the consciousness of unity of all as one. Sathya Sai Centers are built on love; they thrive on love; they spread love. No other purpose or attitude has any place therein. Divinity is the magnet; humanity is the iron; love is the force that draws the two together.

Baba

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS OF NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY - PENNSYLVANIA

EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES WORKSHOP - A conference and training session for all area teachers of EHV (Education in Human Values) will be held on Saturday, February 6 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Charu Ashar, Eastern Regional Coordinator for EHV will conduct the program in her home in the Poughkeepsie area. Nadine Clegern, National Coordinator, will be present to talk about curriculum and show films. All Centers should already have received mailings. For further information call Charu at (914) 223-3077.

SHIVARATRI 1982 - The members of the Pound Ridge Sai Center cordially invite all devotees to join them on the sacred night of Mahashivaratri, Monday, February 22. There will be continuous bhajans from 8 P.M. to 6 A.M. Tuesday. The bhajans will be held at the Center, 435 Rowayton Ave., Norwalk, Connecticut. Devotees are invited to come for all or part of the bhajans. Children are welcome; there is room for them to sleep comfortably upstairs. Driving instructions will be sent to all Centers. If there are questions, call Craig Smith (203) 637-3226 or Suman Govindan (203) 329-2582.

GROUP SERVICE PROJECT - On Thanksgiving and Christmas days, members of the Planetarium Station Sai Center celebrated by preparing and serving holiday meals to homeless men on the Bowery in New York City. This is the second year that New York devotees have participated in this program in conjunction with the Volunteers of America. The Center members also presented a musical program during the meal.

A SAI THANKSGIVING - THE SAI CENTER OF ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK joined in all day satsang to give thanks to the Lord, starting at 11 A.M. with bhajans. The group of 22 adults and children shared in a day of planned activities. The most important event of the day was the inauguration of the Center's Education in Human Values program, with classes for three age groups. The devotees shared two meals, read

devotional poems in several languages and concluded the evening with a one hour study circle. Judith Hefty, Center president, requests suggestions for group service activities and study circle techniques.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS - A New Year's Eve bhajan was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ramesh Wadhvani of the Pound Ridge Sai Center. The evening began with bhajans followed by dinner, a Sai Baba film and then bhajans until midnight. Devotees from Poughkeepsie, Long Island and Connecticut came to join in welcoming the New Year by singing praise to the Lord. The Wadhvanis hope to make it an annual tradition. On New Year's Day, a program of bhajan, film and potluck lunch was held at the home of Fay and Sylvan Levy in New York City. Also an annual tradition, the celebration was well attended as always.

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

At a recent meeting the Milwaukee devotees decided to support the Emergency Food Bank Coalition and the "Second Harvest" movement now being organized by the Rotary Clubs of Milwaukee. The members preferred this plan rather than trying to set up another separate organization. They will lend their time and energy to distributing food to the needy through existing channels. The fund that had been set aside to buy a movie will be used to feed the poor. Some of the members also participate in the poor feeding at St. Benedict's.

The Sai brothers and sisters in Madison joined Milwaukee for the birthday celebration of their beloved Bhagavan. Some of them went to Chicago to participate in the 24 hour bhajan, where they joined in spirit with other Centers around the country and around the world.

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS OF THE MIDWEST AND CANADA

FOURTH MIDWEST REGIONAL SAI BABA CONFERENCE - About 250 devotees from the United States and Canada came to the picturesque Camp Tecumseh, near Lafayette, Indiana, during the Memorial Day weekend (May 22 through May 25, 1981).

From early morning to late at night, the devotees enjoyed the bliss of satsang (holy company) in the camp, situated on a river with greenery all around. The day started with the recitation of Omkar (21 times), Suprabhatam (solo) and Nagarasankirtan (going around the area singing the Glory of the Lord) bringing reminiscences of the days at Prasanthi Nilayam.

There were English and Indian bhajan learning sessions and workshops on Service and Education in Human Values. A question and answer

session on Sai Baba evoked keen interest as experienced devotees answered various questions about Swami. In another session, devotees shared their personal experiences. Dr. V. P. Singh, the President of the Canadian Sai Baba Spiritual Council spoke on the Avatharhood of Swami.



Besides screening of the movie, Aura of Divinity, wonderful videotapes of the Christmas celebration (1980) and the Third World Conference, filmed by Jack Lenchner, were shown.

Members of the Midwest Centers had brought groceries which were distributed to the needy families in Lafayette.

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS OF PHOENIX, MESA AND PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA

In order to express Baba's love to the community during the Christmas holidays, three Arizona Centers joined efforts in two service projects. This activity proved to be a fulfilling and rewarding experience for all.

One project involved the adults and the Education in Human Values children. The children created Christmas cards for residents of a home for the aged which they distributed on Christmas Eve morning while singing Christmas carols. Love and joy shown happily on the faces of young and old alike.

Afterwards Center members continued on to the maximum security unit of the Arizona State Behavioral Hospital, where the adult members gave a Christmas party for the inmates. The party at the hospital was such a success that an official there asked that the Center members return and make regular visits as, "these are the forgotten people in the prison system."

Baba has said: *Seva (service) is the best sadhana (spiritual discipline). Do not believe that by means of seva you can reform others or reshape the world. You can only re-form yourself and re-shape yourself. Take it as sadhana and you will remain happy and humble. It must be a continuation of your japa (repetition of the Lord's name) and dhyanam (meditation). I do not like japa which makes you deaf to the cries of those in pain and distress. What is the use of dhyanam if your heart is hardened in the process?*

SAI SUNBELT RETREAT OF CENTRAL TUCSON, ARIZONA

The third annual Sai Sunbelt Retreat was hosted by the Central Tucson Center in the picturesque setting of the Triangle Y Ranch of Oracle, Arizona. The dramatically rugged rock formations and mountainous desert created the perfect background (much like Prasanthi Nilayam) for spiritual pursuits.

The daily events were fashioned after the schedule at Prasanthi Nilayam (Baba's ashram in India) as closely as possible. The day began before sunrise and the work was shared by all devotees.

Charles Bollmann, M.D. spoke on the theme of fear as a cause of disease. He reminded the audience that Sai's teachings lead us from fear by explaining that the world is an illusion, it does not exist, and only God is permanent.

Mr. Bill Macklin conducted a mini-seminar with many practical suggestions on how to relieve stress, such as working with, or getting in touch with the Divine Being within.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Jack Hislop who emphasized how fortunate are those who know Sai. He asked, "Of the millions of people in the world, how many know Sai? How many ever go to India to see Sai? How many read Sai's books and consider his teachings and look for him in their heart and feel devotion for him and his love for them? To let that opportunity go because of lack of thought and lack of consideration is really and truly a crime. Now the chance is here for us to be free of the quicksand (of life) and to reach the firm bank, to realize the divinity which Swami says is our true nature. It is within our grasp to know the bliss which passes all understanding."

HAWAII SAI-LENCE RETREAT

Through Baba's grace and blessings, the First Hawaii Sai-lence Twenty-Four Hour Retreat took place on October 10 and 11, 1981. The setting was one of serenity and seclusion in a home on the ocean, on the windward side of Oahu. At times of silence, the only audible sounds were the waves breaking just beyond the tropical grounds surrounding the house. After registration and service assignments, the retreat began with bhajans, meditation and a reading.

Our second inspiring day began at 4 A.M. as we rose in silence and proceeded to the puja room for Omkar and Suprabhatam. Nagarasankirtan began as we walked along the beach with candles. A tranquil sea of silk was Baba's gift. We concluded our walk and bhajans as the sun rose. Our only world was the Sai World for twenty-four hours, and we all carried that thought with us as the retreat came to a close.

One of the members later wrote: "Love is how such an event is brought to fruition. . .for me, it is love that is my guiding light; it is love that sustains me to do all things. This I know from my own experience of love in my life, from the small dog in India that finally let love guide it into friendship with me, to the almighty prema (love) of our beloved Sai."

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

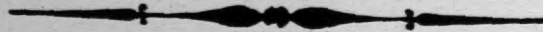
SERVICE PROJECTS - The members had discussed service and asked for a program to be presented to them. The opportunity came in the form of an ad asking for volunteers to assist in a program for a six-month-old severely brain damaged baby. Three of the Sai members now have the opportunity to share Baba's love while doing therapy for the child. As another service project they have made arrangements to show the film MY LIFE IS MY MESSAGE at a local college.

In speaking of Sathya Sai Baba Centers, Sri Baba has stated: I must say plainly that 90 out of 100 among you have not clearly visualized the purpose for which I have allowed you to form these organizations. It is not to give some people places of authority or power, or for ensuring fame and publicity for me. It is to build upon the earth the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men on strong foundations. This must be clearly grasped by all of you. You are not engaged in social service through these organizations; you are engaged in your own service. All the items of work are aimed at expanding your heart and purifying it. This is the call of the sages of this land and of all the scriptures and tests.

Baba

WHO TO TURN TO

Any questions about Center activities, policies and/or procedures should be brought to the attention of the director for that Center. The directors of the Sathya Sai Baba Council of America are the direct link to that organization's president, Dr. Jack Hislop. Members of Centers should not feel alone in facing problems. The directors are available to offer council and friendship in all Center matters.



MAHA-SIVARATHRI

The festival called Maha-Sivarathri is one of the major holy days of the year. It is held all over India on the day of the new moon between February and March. The dark of the moon is important because the moon is recognized as the presiding deity of the mind, and when it is full the mind is rampant, hence the Western use of the word lunatic. When the reflected light from the moon is reduced to a slender arc the mind is calm and worldly tendencies can be more easily overcome through spiritual practices. Each year this day and night are set aside for meditation, fasting and singing the name of God.

At Prasanthi Nilayam, in Sai Baba's presence, Maha-Sivarathri takes on added meaning. For many years a unique ceremony has taken place called Lingodbhava, at which time Baba brings forth the one or more lingams materialized inside his body. These lingams have appeared as elliptically shaped stones of varying clarity and color, sometimes as much as three or four inches in length. They symbolize the manifestation of the unmanifest, that moment when the infinite becomes finite in the form recognized as the seed or egg out of which new life, in this case new spiritual life, is born.

THE JESUS MYSTERY
By Janet Bock

This year, 1982, Maha-Sivarathri will occur during the evening hours of Monday, February 22 through the early morning of Tuesday, February 23.



SRI SATHYA SAI BABA WITH A LINGAM

MODESTY IN DRESS

At first it would appear that modesty is an easy virtue to practice. "If I feel I am being modest, then I assume that I am. If I feel I am being immodest, then I feel a little showy or self-conscious." Becoming aware of these different feelings is a step forward, but it is really just scratching the surface. In this Kali age we are so turned around that we can feel modest while being immodest.

The task is apparently to become gradually more conscious of the many aspects of modesty. Much of the issue of clothing has to do with the potential reaction of the onlooker. Swami has said that we are, to a considerable degree, responsible for how we make others feel. If you are at Prasanthi Nilayam, then you are expected to adhere to a more closely defined code of modesty. When at an American beach, the code is quite different. Other considerations apply if the onlookers are adolescents, all women, or all men, etc.

It is easy to agree that it is not dharmic to dress or behave provocatively in public. Yet this is often done innocently by men and women in our society in supermarkets, shopping malls, schools, and places of worship. Obviously the virtue of modesty is not something we can comfortably and discriminatingly learn to practice overnight. It is something to begin working on. Like any other worldly issue, it is ego-based. As ego is the result of confusion about who we really are, then the problem with modesty is the illusion that we are our bodies. If our bodies are not admired, there is the fear that we are not admired. In our society, personal value has been equated with physical attractiveness. We believe that others will like us because we are physically attractive, not because we are virtuous, loving, etc.

On the scale of worldly values, men and women who dress in a sexy way, and who can do so unselfconsciously, are admired for their social self-confidence. Those who dress modestly must rely on their personal characteristics, their charm, friendliness, social skills, etc., and their adherence to dharma or righteousness.

Most of us are a little frightened at the prospect of altering our personal dress code toward increased modesty. More modest dressing puts us in touch with the question "Am I unattractive?"

By opting for modesty, we are giving up the use of various techniques for focusing attention on what we feel are the most attractive parts

of our bodies. Thus our fear can be that people will now notice our less attractive areas. We feel plain, dumpy, dull, etc. when we are not dressed "fashionably, stylishly".

It is not at all easy to practice correct discrimination regarding modesty. But with loving hearts we must begin to try, remembering that the spiritual path to enlightenment takes one's entire life to travel.

Here are some things to think about regarding the practice of modesty. Remember, the issue is appropriateness in regards to who will see us, not the things in themselves.

1. Men's clothing: Tight shirts, tight pants, see-through material shirts unbuttoned exposing chest, shirt-less, suggestive messages printed on T-shirts, bikini swimsuits, shorts, suggestive sitting or reclining postures.
2. Ladies' clothing: Tight, clinging, revealing, see-through blouses, bare back, bare shoulders, low neckline, unbuttoned blouses revealing chest, short skirts, high-slit skirts, tight jeans or slacks, shorts, bikini swimsuits, T-shirts with suggestive messages printed on them, suggestive sitting or reclining postures. Another consideration for ladies clothing is an obvious lack of under garments.
3. Breast feeding in public: Young girls are confused by this, since it gives a conflicting message about modesty. And no matter how innocently it is done, most men and boys are stimulated by this. It would probably be more modest to drape a light baby blanket or diaper over one's shoulder to avoid exposure, or to go to another room where one can be private.

I like simplicity; I like dress that will not discourage people from approaching you for a kind word, a bit of service, a helping hand. It must be clean and decent; not outlandish and queer. It should not be worn to attract attention. SATHYA SAI SPEAKS VOLUME VI.

A Devotee Couple



Modesty is essential for women, it is her priceless jewel. It is against dharma (righteousness) for a woman to overstep the limits of modesty, crossing the limits brings about many calamities.

Baba



I'VE FOUND A FRIEND

I've found a friend
A friend so strong and true
He's with me when I'm happy
Consoles me when I'm blue

I've found a friend
Who's always by my side
He gives me hope and comfort
Through life He'll be my guide

He listens to my troubles
My desires and dreams so bright
Then always reassures me
That things will turn out right

I've found a friend
That darkness cannot dim
Whenever I feel lonely
I always turn to Him.

George Frega

SIMPLE LIFE - HAPPY LIFE

Once in an interview Baba said, *You must always be ready at any moment, at any time. When you least expect, Swami acts. Swami's grace comes like a flash.* Friday, 7 August 1981 was one of those magical days when his grace came like a flash. That morning after singing bhajans, I was going for a late breakfast in the canteen in Prasanthi Nilayam when word came to me, "Swami is leaving for Whitefield in about a half hour. There is a seat for you in the car directly behind Baba's." I dashed back to my flat to pack, and then dashed to the laundry to get my clothes, dashed again to the office to leave the room key, and then ran to the car just in time to take off and park outside the gate to meet Baba's car. We followed directly behind. I was seated in the front. I cannot tell you the thrill of following behind Sri Baba. Not only the thrill but the awe. All along the road people lined up in namaskar (greeting). Somehow the word spread and children were let out of school to line up on both sides of the road. Swami had the car slowed down, and the red clothed arm came out of the window waving a handkerchief, acknowledging the love and pouring it back, multiplied ten times over. You could see the transformation on the faces. Every face would light up. First they would be very solemn when Baba approached, but then they quickly smiled, bodies would get animated and jump with joy, mouths would give voice to jai (hail). Following behind, as we did, the smiling faces would come our way after Swami's car passed and infect us as well. Love and joy was in the air and one could not feel otherwise, except perhaps a little choked up by the sweetness of his grace. At one point Swami's car went through some cattle on the road. An old man who was herding them was so totally immersed in his namaskar, he was not even looking after the cows. I thought to myself, that man might have been a *Gopi in another life. Swami's arm came out of the window and handed him an orange, and then the arm came out again and gave him a second orange for his wife. Such sweetness! That's how it went for two hours. Swami kept the speed of the powerful car down so that we could follow closely behind and enjoy his love, seeing him constantly in front of us, as we feel him inside of us.

Then just beyond the little town of Chikballapur, about two-thirds of the way to Bangalore, Sri Baba's car turned off the main road and we followed. We were soon to find out that he was heading for the

*Gopi, a person who has subdued the senses; Gopis were the cowherd maids who worshipped Lord Krishna in Brindavan.

Sri Sathya Sai Grama, a residential school for boys about 10 kilometers off the main road. The school is on a little rise in a beautiful green valley below the Nandi Hills. As we approached we could see in the distance about a thousand children lined up along the road outside, resplendent in blue and white uniforms. For the last 100 yards before the school, the road was covered with a thick carpet of beautiful yellow and white flowers arranged in ornamental designs. There were poles flying colorful banners with festive decorations, and a flower-bedecked white archway had been set up, displaying the Sai emblem. A brightly dressed band struck up a martial tune as Swami's car came near. Boys dressed in the ochre cloth of pundits recited Vedic chants. The headmaster held a large red umbrella over Baba, as Swami was welcomed, garlanded with flowers and a jyoti flame waved in front of him. Then he walked in procession along the flowered path, between rows of happy children. It was very beautiful, majestic and festive. Sri Sathya Sai Baba seemed to reflect the happiness. What a wonderful surprise this was for us. We spent over two hours there and it was a little like being in Heaven. Everything was decorated so beautifully, I thought to myself it must have taken an all-out effort of the whole school for weeks to prepare. Later we found out that although they had had some hints of a possible visit, definite word of Swami's arrival had not come until 11 P.M. the previous evening by phone from Prasanthi Nilayam. They worked that night to get ready. What joy they must have had preparing for the visit.

After bhajan songs there were some heartfelt talks by two little boys. They were particularly endearing and Swami gave them much attention. Then Baba prepared to speak, but just before he started there came a sudden downpour of rain, and Baba decided to cancel the rest of the outdoor function so that the children and teachers could take shelter. But as he got up to leave there arose such a wail of disappointment from everyone there, even though they were all slowly getting drenched, as water leaked through the temporary covering of leaves and thatch that had been set up. Baba continued to leave but he had barely taken three steps off the podium when the sun, in all its bright glory, poured through the leafy roof and flooded the area with light. All around the sky was almost black, heavy with monsoon rain. Swami protested laughingly that he had nothing to do with this sudden brightening, which of course, immediately reflected on the smiling faces around. But afterwards he said that Swami's prema (love) must have brought out the sun. The area was like a little oasis of sun-drenched grace.

Bhagavan returned to the podium and for 45 minutes blessed us with a warm-hearted discourse. He gave it in the Kannada language, but included enough words in English (repeating some humorous examples he had used in his talk at the Bal Vikas conference the day before at Prasanthi Nilayam), that we had no trouble at all following the gist of his talk. But even if we hadn't understood with our minds, our hearts would have had no difficulty imbibing Sri Baba's wonderful warmth, love and vitality. It was a very special darshan. Then, within seconds of his conclusion and getting up to leave, the clouds, having held themselves in for so long, finished their namaskars and let go with a mighty burst of showering that sent everyone scurrying for cover. All the same, the sun remained on all the smiling faces even as we huddled under shelter in the rain, for now we had positive confirmation of Swami's gift of love in holding off the downpour for so long so that we could be blessed with his divine talk.

Afterwards he graciously invited us to join him for lunch and then spoke again to all the teachers. About 60 of them crowded into the little room and sat at his feet. What strikes one immediately about these teachers is their joyfulness and enthusiasm and deep devotion to Swami. But they are not at all timid. They asked their questions freely with good humor. There was a wonderful sense of comradeship among them. They are all Brahmacharis (celibates); they are given some cloth and a mat and share the same simple life style with the young students. Baba kept repeating, *Santosh, Santosh. Good teachers. Good boys, simple life, good life.* That is what he values. . . true devotion. . . simple life. . . high thinking. What a marvelous opportunity those young boys have; born in the *Kali Yuga, they will undoubtedly die in the Sai Yuga (in bliss). And if we lighten our load and embrace his love and teachings, we too have a chance to reach that consciousness.

Alvin Drucker

*Kali Yuga, age of iron; thought to be a difficult period in the history of the world. The Kali Yuga began about 5,680 years ago and will end in another 5,320 years.

FOR WOMEN



The woman is the prop of the home and of religion. She plants and fosters religious faith or dries up and uproots it. Women have natural aptitude for faith and spiritual endeavor. Women with devotion, faith and meekness can lead men on the Godward path and the practice of holy virtues. They will get up early before dawn, clean the home, and after finishing bath, etc. sit for awhile engaged in japam (repetition of the Lord's name) and dhyanam (meditation). They will have in their homes one small room set apart for the worship of the Lord. They will place there, images of the Lord as well as pictures of holy sages and of gurus and guides. They will consider the room specially sacred and fill the atmosphere with their prayers both morning and evening, as well as on holy days and festivals. A woman who is steadfastly doing these will be able to transmute even her atheist husband, persuading him to join the prayers or engage in some good activity or some scheme of social service marked by the attitude of dedication to the Lord. Indeed, it is the woman who maintains the home, that is her mission. She is truly the representative of sakthi (power, ability).

Dharma Vahini

LET US BE ONE

More than eighty years ago, when the first deep sea cables were laid on the ocean bed for transmitting international messages, Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem, which ended with the lines:

Hush! Men talk today o'er the waste
of the ultimate slime,
And a new Word runs between:
whispering, "Let us be one."

Since then, our world has witnessed more astonishing advances in means of communication across national boundaries around the globe. But that muffled hope for human unity, which Kipling expressed, is yet to be realized.

All that the miracles in telecommunications have achieved so far is to fill the ether with the babel of conflicting ideologies and with propaganda masquerading as truth. It is not communication technology that will promote unity of mankind. We need a powerful spiritual force to achieve that.

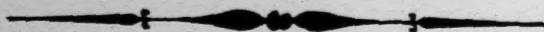
The most heartening fact about the international scene today is that this spiritual force is already at work and is accomplishing wonders. No one present at the Conferences of Sathya Sai Organizations at Prasanthi Nilayam, which are attended by thousands of representatives from many countries of the world ranging from Japan in the East to Peru in the West, could have failed to realize the great spiritual impulse that had brought people from so many different nations and faiths together at the hitherto little-known village of Puttaparthi, the birthplace of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In thirty years Prasanthi Nilayam, the Abode of Supreme Peace, established by Bhagavan Baba at Puttaparthi has become a place of pilgrimage for seekers of the divine from nearly all the countries of the world.

What has united these men and women of different nations and faiths is obviously the unique divine personality of Bhagavan Baba, and the appeal of his universal message delivered in the authentic accents of one who could speak for the whole of mankind. When Bhagavan Baba had spoken about the oneness of all humanity, based on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, he was not repeating a theological cliché, but imparting new life to an ancient truth, proclaimed by the Vedic seers and the prophets of all faiths.

It was a thrilling sight for everyone to witness when Bhagavan Baba distributed vibuthi to the devotees from abroad in the magnificent Poornachandra Auditorium. At the end of this blissful experience everyone stood to sing in chorus the Arathi song. It was a veritable miniature United Nations, but with a great difference. Unlike the United Nations, where the conflicting interests of nation-states keep the members divided, the men and women assembled at Prasanthi Nilayam were united by a deep spiritual bond and the conviction that real human unity can be achieved only through adherence to Bhagavan Baba's four principles - sathya (truth), dharma (righteousness), Shanthi (peace) and prema (love).

With millions of Bhagavan Baba's devotees all over the world constituting the ever-growing Sai family, the time is not far off when Sai family and the human family will become one. The message of love and selfless service that has gone forth from Prasanthi Nilayam should fill Sai devotees everywhere with new hope and courage, and inspire them to strive for a world community, free from greed, hatred and injustice, and wedded to the achievement of peace, righteousness and harmony.

By Bharadwaja



Man is three-fourths divinity and one-fourth human. In other words, immortality constitutes three parts of man and the mortal aspect is accounted for by the remaining one part in man. Still man gives undue importance to the one-fourth of his totality and tends to forget the main, immortal aspect in himself.

Baba



DIVINE WORDS

On the Relationship Between God and the Individual

You are my treasure even if you deny me. I am your treasure, even if you say 'No'. I shall be affectionate to you and attach myself to you. I shall take all trouble to keep my property safe in my custody - that is to say, in the custody of the Lord, by whichever name you may be calling on Him! All the powers that I have are for you. I am just the storekeeper, keeping them ready to be given to you whenever you ask for them. My love shall I give even if you do not ask, for it is your right to share in it. Some complain that I do not give them this or that, but they do so because their vision is limited to the immediate future or the present, whereas I know what is in store and so I have to safeguard them from greater grief. They even blame me and heap abuses, but I will not give them up. I am not influenced by anybody. Remember there is no one who can change my course or affect my conduct to the slightest extent. I am the master over all.

But let me tell you one thing. I speak harshly and punish some persons because I have love towards them, and I am eager to correct them and make them better instruments. If they were not mine, I would have given them up and not cared to take notice of their lapses. I have a right to chastise those whom I feel are mine. I also know that they will still value my word and that they will feel sad at my being displeased with them. It is due to your wayward mind that I sometimes act as if I keep you at a distance. That is done to reform you more quickly. When a stretch of road is being repaired, we go by another detour and we do not use that bit of road for some time. The purpose is to let the repair work proceed more quickly so that we may use the road again.

I have come to set the world right and so I have to collect those who are ill, treat them in my 'hospital' and restoring them to sanity, strength and wisdom, then send them back to their stations in life. I must intensify your devotion, reinforce your faith and rebuild the foundations of your moral nature, so that you can counter temptations with greater confidence. I have come across people who recite a prayer and believe that they are bringing the world nearer to peace with every occasion on which they pray. But peace can only be won the hard way by eliminating violence and greed from the hearts of individuals.

With blessings, Sri Sathya Sai Baba

DIVINE WORDS

On the Relationship Between the Individual and Society

Wherever men gather with a purpose in a society, there you perceive the Divine. . . the knowledge, being and bliss! A personality has arisen; a clearer flash of reason is evident, a deeper joy fills the hearts. Immerse yourselves in them.

This is real spiritual endeavor, not pining in solitude or revelling in the breaking of bonds with others of your kind, priding on your independence! Be with others, in others, for others. Be with all, for all, in all.

But nevertheless, be unattached, be the unfailing source of love. Therein lies success in spiritual endeavor, the triumph of spiritual discipline. Thus is the Sai in you manifested, thus is the world fostered, thus is the heart purified enough to install Sai within.

There are questions raised; of what relation is society and social ties with spirit and its glory? Of what relation is the spirit and its glory with society and its tangles and trickeries? Such questions arise from erring minds.

Spiritual endeavor must aim at individual illumination, social betterment and the divination of the human community. This is extremely urgent and essential. While in society, the divinity inherent in man can blossom more quickly, more widely, more fragrantly. You recognize the world, but not God Who is immanent in it! So too, you see the individual but not the corpus that is immanent in society.

Of course, society is not another concrete, composite, collective body! It is the expansion and expression of the divine in each of its components; denotable and enjoyable as one society is the awareness of this cognizable divinity. So the one should not flee from the many. The individual is not harmed by society. The one should rather see the many in a new light, the light which reveals that society is but God Who activates and prompts the composite whole. The one is rendered fuller by association with the many. He gains by losing himself in the many! All men are kith and kin, one family, one aspiration, one attempt at one acquisition. They are all equally divine, all form the universal body of the one God. All are heirs to the bliss that this awareness can give. Of course, society does not happen when people gather by chance, or get together with no common goal of good. The many-faceted skills and intelligences that

are contributed by the many must flow pure and clear, untarnished by egoistic desires, along the channel of the spirit. Then they will feed the roots of truth and goodness, they will ensure peace, for all ideas of high and low will disappear. This is the criterion for a stable, strong, sweet society, not mere numbers. Be conscious of the God in each and in all. Then the inner equality will impress each so indelibly that the awareness will stay undisturbed. Peace will reign in each and all.

Understand the Atma (Divine Consciousness) or God which is your core. That will establish peace in you and you can share that peace with others. What can you give others if your hearts are empty?

Do you intend to be in society? Do you crave to serve it and be served by it? Then seek the God in all, see the same in all. Yearn to worship that God by selfless service. That alone makes you a true limb of society. If you feel separate, distinct, outside and beyond society, you will run after name and fame, you will be enslaved by hate and partiality and ruined in the end. So cast out those evil attitudes. Feel that you are giving society what is its due, offering God His own gift of skill and intelligence! Vow to serve, to dedicate! Cultivate love! Society is the reflection of the God you adore, the God Whose nature is bliss. Transform yourself into love and become bliss. Adore society as the divine body. That is the truth, the eternal vision.

With blessings, Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Have you a story to share with others through the SATHYA SAI NEWS-LETTER? If so, please send it to 6804 N. Joshua Tree Lane, Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253. Please indicate if you wish to remain anonymous. We reserve the right to edit all material.

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Please let us know of your change of address as far in advance as possible so your service will be uninterrupted.

Send to:

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6804 N. JOSHUA TREE LN.
PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 85253

My change of address is:

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