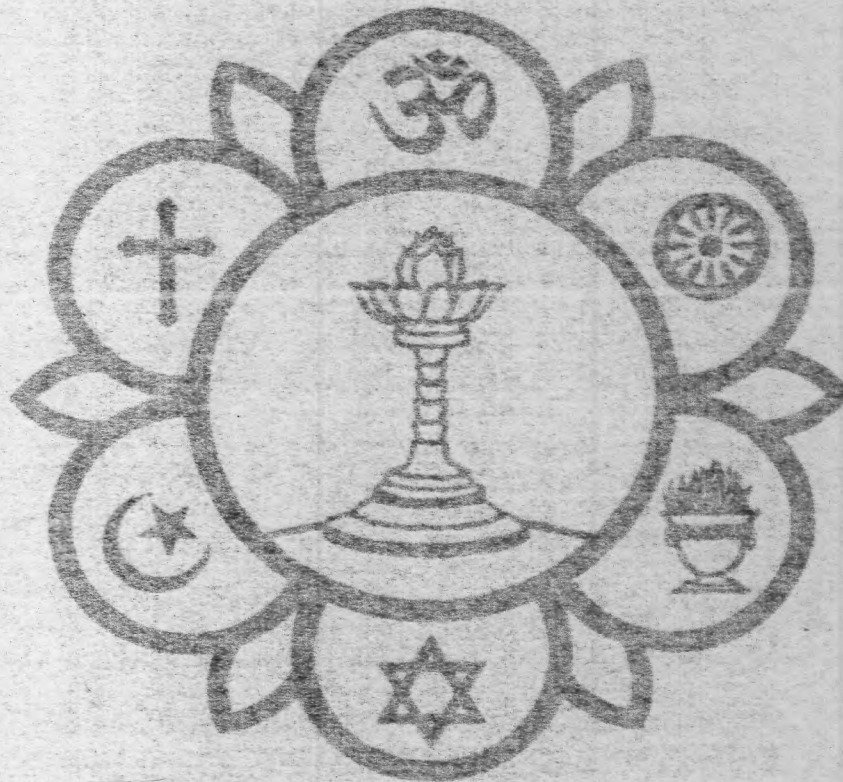


Sathya Sai Newsletter
1800 E. Garvey Avenue
West Covina, CA 91791

SATHYA SAI



Newsletter

FALL 1982

Vol. 7 No. 1

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



God is eternal power, omnipotent, omniscient. He is the cause and consequence, the potter, the clay and the pot. Without God, there can be no universe. He willed and the universe happened. It is His play, the manifestation of His power. Man embodies His will, His power, His wisdom. But he is unaware of this glory. The cloud of ignorance veils the truth. God sends sages, saints and prophets to unveil the truth and Himself appears as an Avatar to awaken and liberate him. Two thousand years ago, when narrow pride and thick ignorance defiled mankind, Jesus came as the embodiment of love and compassion and lived among men, holding forth the highest ideals of life. You must pay attention to the lessons He elaborated in the various stages of His life. 'I am the Messenger of God,' He declared first. Yes. Each individual has to accept that role and live as examples of divine love and charity. The guru must act as the alarm clock; he should awaken the sleeper to his duty to himself. "Utthishta! Jagratha!", as the Upanishads proclaim. "Arise! Awake!" And bear witness to the God within, in every thought, word and deed.

Excerpted from the Message of Christmas, Page 15.

Baba

BHAGAVAN'S 60th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

As we look forward to the 57th birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on November 23, our thoughts are turned to ways in which to pay honor to him. It is noteworthy that in 1985 Sri Baba will be 60 years old, and the 60th birthday is thought to be particularly auspicious. Consequently plans are being made to recognize all forthcoming birthdays with special emphasis on 1985.

Perceiving clearly that a mere celebration of the birth date has no relevance in the spiritual field, the International Committee for the Celebration of the 60th Birthday of Sri Sathya Sai Baba (Sri Indulal Shah, Chairman) has set forth a Three Year Celebration Program. The Program will aim at practicing the teachings of Bhagavan on "Discipline, Duty and Devotion" and at giving shape to this practice by a dedicated and continued endeavor to achieve the following four objectives:

1. To add to national health and welfare by putting in more hours of seva, of service to others.
2. To intensify our faith in Bhagavan's teachings by improving our own sadhana (spiritual practices).
3. To establish in our hearts the Sai principle of unity in all faiths.
4. To practice the teachings of Bhagavan Baba that we need to put a ceiling on our desires and cravings.

With special reference to objective 4, Bhagavan Baba teaches that desires and cravings are bonds which tie us to our ego and that we need to sever this bondage in order to be free and happy and in order to realize inner divinity as our birthright.

It is suggested that each member of the Sai family could keep a record of achievement in curbing desires and cravings. Entries in a "spiritual diary" could be made daily or weekly according to individual preference. A simple and inexpensive notebook for this purpose may be purchased in any stationery store. The International Committee states that participation in the "spiritual diary" discipline is in no way mandatory, but is wholly voluntary.

Many have not been accustomed to keeping a spiritual diary and at first may be a bit puzzled as to its use. The purpose of this particular spiritual diary is that we become conscious witness to desires and cravings as they arise and as they have their effect. Even

a small amount of practice will bring a beginning of detachment from the course of physical, emotional and mental events. It will not take much detachment to enable us to see, for example, that a craving for sweets and the effect of that craving is harmful to the health and that because of this desire we have less time available for more important life objectives. When this cycle of desire for sweets and its effect becomes clear we will naturally curb the desire for sweets and see that this desire is not our true self and that it must not be given a controlling position in our life.

Bhagavan Baba says his true birthday is when each of us realizes the Lord as the ever joyful, ever blissful resident in our heart. He says too that it is our progress in spiritual life that brings the greatest pleasure to him. Therefore it is thought that laying the spiritual diaries at his feet on the 60th birthday is a most fitting display of love and respect.

PRANSANTHI NILAYAM PROGRAM EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES TEACHERS FROM OVERSEAS CENTERS

The International Committee proposes to hold a training session in 1983 for a period of five days. Participation is limited to two teachers from any particular center, but there is no need for every center to participate. It should be decided as quickly as possible how many teachers are going from the U.S.A. and if it is preferred that the training session be held in March or August of 1983. Please, as soon as possible, contact Mr. Michael Dave. His phone number (evenings and weekends) is (213) 476-6860. His mail address is 6255 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 1214, Hollywood, California 90028.

WORLD BHAJAN DAY

The International Committee notifies us that Sathya Sai Baba centers should organize a World Bhajan Day on Saturday, November 13, 1982, from 6:00 p.m. onwards for a period of 24 hours, local time. The duration of the program may be varied depending upon the circumstances of the center concerned.

Jack Hislop
President
Sathya Sai Baba Council of America

JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

L'Shana Tovah Tikatanu. May the Lord of all, Adonai, Elohenu (Merciful God, Boundless God), Lord Satya Sai Baba, bless you with a good beginning, a good new year. Rosh Hashanna, the "head of the year", marks the beginning of ten days of penitence ending with Yom Kippur, the holiest of holy days, the Day of Atonement.

This seems a strange time for a calendar new year, in the fall when life appears to be dying. Yet this is a spiritual new year when spiritual seeds are planted to germinate through the winter and blossom in the spring. This is a time to go inward, to evaluate our lives, a time to reassess our relationship with God. A time to rejoice in our victories, our spiritual progress. A time to repent for our failings of the past year. Where have we let ourselves down? Where have we let God down? A time for resolution and a time to remind ourselves to live by the ideals given to us by our Lord. Sri Baba commands us to *watch our words, actions, thoughts, character and heart* all the time. The Jewish high holy days serve as a strong reminder.

In Judaism it is not enough to love God, but "one must love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might." (from the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:5) Sri Baba tells us God Himself is love: *Love is joy, love is power, love is light, love is God. If at all you want to label me, then call me Premaswarup (embodiment of love).*

Jews are given a chance every year at this time to begin again, to reinitiate our sadhana, our religious practices, and to rededicate ourselves to God and His path. Sri Sai Baba says: *You can lay claim to that name only when you have placed yourself in my hands fully, completely, with no trace of ego kept back to cater to your vanity.*

L'Shana Tovah Tikatanu: May this be such a year for each of us.

Crystal Lionne



The SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER has moved. Our new address is:
1800 EAST GARVEY AVENUE, WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA 91791

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

A happy Christmas has come!
Brothers of the Sai family.
It is a happy occasion for one and all,
For the Lord has travelled from Bethlehem to
Prasanthi Nilayam.

The abode of eternal peace,
Where he showers his grace
To the multitude
Assembled on the campus
In the morning twilight.
A thousand candles lit, and
The song of "Om Sai, Shiv Sai, Jesus Sai"
Went up in the air,
And spread in all directions
On the wings of the morning breeze
Which carried to every nook and corner of the world.

And lo! the silver gates open,
The gates of heaven,
And the Lord appears to bless us all
May he be a Christian, a Hindu or a Muslim,
Or one belonging to any other faith,
For all are His children,
Living and breathing under this Motherly care.
And practicing one religion,
The religion of love.
Lord, on this auspicious day
Let millions and millions of candles
Light our hearts so that
We shed off the ignorance
Of duality and be one
With Thee, the Father of us all.

Amen.

B.P. Misra
December 25, 1981

DASARA

THE CELEBRATION OF GOOD OVER EVIL

Dasara, the festival to the Divine Mother, is celebrated throughout India, usually for ten days, following the new moon in September or October. This year it began on October 17, 1982. Irrespective of caste or sect the entire Hindu population observes this occasion to honor Devi (the Divine Mother). The modes of worship and the amount of time it is celebrated vary according to the area. Likewise, the name given to the Cosmic Mother also varies: in Kashmir they call her Amba, in Rajasthan, Bhavani. She is addressed at Kalyani in Gujarat, while in Mythila as Uma. Meenakshi, Kamakshi, Chamundi, Durga, Laxmi, Saraswati, Kali, Parvati, Bhagavati and Narayani are some of the many names by which this Divine Being is called.

In Prasanthi Nilayam (the place in India where Sri Baba resides) Navaratri (another name for Dasara which means the nine nights) is celebrated according to Vedic tradition. Dr. Fanibunda describes this occasion in his book VISION OF THE DIVINE as follows:

"It was on 6th October 1961 that Baba established the performance of the Vedapurusha Saptaha Gnyan Yagna at Prasanthi Nilayam. Its sole purpose is to make Dharma (righteousness) shine, purify individuals and bring about the welfare of all humanity. This is achieved during the Yagna (the sacrifice or overthrow of all evil tendencies) by the chanting of Vedic mantras, reading of various sacred scriptures, offering as oblation into the Sacrificial Fire clarified butter or ghee permeated with mantric vibrations, adhyatmic discourses and dramas with a spiritual message. This Yagna is part of the Navaratri Celebrations culminating in the final Poornahoti or Vijayadasami Day. All the celebrations connected with Navaratri and Dasara at Prasanthi Nilayam are to be viewed in context of Dharmasthapana and a purifying Divine boon, conferred by the Avatar through His Grace, on an ailing humanity." (Dharmasthapana means the restoration of righteousness).

The festival of Dasara commemorates the victory of good over evil. On the first day there is a flag raising ceremony symbolizing victory. The first day is Hospital Day and that evening, in his divine discourse, Sai Baba often speaks of health and the importance of keeping the body physically fit. On subsequent nights Swami

talks on the meaning of Dasara and how it is a time of great inner purification. He speaks about the symbolism of the yagna and how the offering of our bad qualities into the fire is the real sacrifice. Dasara ends with a climax on Vijayadasami Day or the tenth day of victory. The pundits officiate the last rites of the yagna and Baba arrives in procession to accept the final offerings. On this day many devotees feel more aware of Baba's divine majesty. He appears radiant with the qualities of the Divine Mother: protectiveness, serenity and the soothing gentleness of his love and grace. In the evening Baba sits in the jula (a type of swing) while chosen musicians fulfill their lives' ambitions by singing to him.

Loraine Burrows
on behalf of the
National Bhajan Committee



CHILDRENS' CORNER

CHRISTMAS GIVING

Christmas coming! Christmas coming!
merrily sang the songs.

Christmas coming! Christmas coming!
gaily echoed the throngs.

All through city and countryside
rang the sounds of good cheer,
spurring shoppers to a greater pace
for Christmas was drawing near.

"Mom, what can we do, we haven't much,
for presents and food and all,
Christmas is for giving and getting
and when friends and family call.
But now Dad's gone and we're alone
there's just no money to spare.
Nobody knows we're really poor
and nobody seems to care."

"Jimmy, you're right, we don't have much
like gold, frankincense and myrrh,
like the three kings who first worshipped Christ
and brought presents at his birth.
But we have each other, and much much more
that can't be bought with gold.
We have someone to love and care for
and someone's hand to hold."

Jimmy thought of this for one whole day,
then his eyes grew big and bright.
Saying not a word he left the house
and was quickly out of sight.
For the next few days he was busy
with preparations all his own.
He seemed so happy and contented
his mother left him alone.

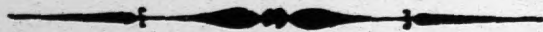


Christmas, Jimmy woke with a shout,
"I love you mom, here's a kiss.
Let's get dressed and then hurry, for
I've presents for those who'd be missed.
But first your gift, I made it for you
with all the love in my heart.
A little pine box and carved on the lid
is your name, now wasn't that smart?"

They hurriedly dressed, then out in the street
her son with a sack in his hand,
first to the house of old Mrs. Clark
with a hug and a paper fan.
Then to Dirk the blind boy's house
with a feather and a prickly cone.
To each lonely house they brought their love,
and the thought that we're never alone.

"Mother," said Jimmy when all was done.
"That's the happiest Christmas I've had.
I spent all my time for everyone else
and had no time to be sad.
I thought about the first Christmas
and what Christ gave to the kings .
All he had was his love to give
and it was more precious than 'things'."

Leonard Bischel



Do not render service for the sake of reward, attracting attention or earning gratitude, or from a sense of pride of your own superiority in skill, wealth, status or authority. Serve because you are urged by a feeling of love. When you succeed, ascribe it to the grace of God Who urged you on. If you fail, ascribe it to your own inadequacy, incompetency or insincerity. Examine the springs of action in your heart. Disinfect them from all traces of ego. Do not throw the blame on another or on God.

Baba

ACTIVITIES OF SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

SERVICE AND A RETREAT IN FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY - Thus far service in the Frankfort center has been on an individual basis. The members have engaged in the following seva: Visited the elderly in a nursing home and arranged a picnic for them; donated food to the Community Pantry which distributes it to the needy; helped neighbors with various projects, such as mowing lawns for the elderly; manned a Bookmobile in the hospital; helped alcoholics; served handicapped family members; provided rides for the elderly and young mothers to doctor appointments, and travel to nearby cities. In the near future they hope to assist an elderly lady recently widowed, and people living alone recuperating from illness. The center itself serves as an information center for several interested people in Kentucky.

Over Labor Day weekend a Kentucky mini-retreat was held at the center from Saturday noon to Sunday evening. In addition to the regular members, there were three guests from other areas of Kentucky. The schedule was modeled on that of the larger retreats with melodious devotional bhajans, meditation, study circle, talks by each person on an aspect of Sathya Sai's teachings, showing of the video film SAI BABA UNIVERSAL TEACHER, slide show of India and Prasanthi Nilayam, early morning omkar, suprabhatham, nagarasankirtan through the meadows. The final bhajan session ended with singing the 108 names of God. All joined in preparation of delicious vegetarian meals.

Perhaps this successful experience will encourage members in small centers to have a similar gathering for special spiritual enrichment. Everyone present expressed their feelings of upliftment and enjoyment of the entire program with some comments, as follows: "It was a beautiful and moving weekend, and we came away inspired by devotion and satsang." "The whole retreat was soothing and thought-provoking, a charging of our spiritual batteries." "I felt Baba's presence and a profound sense of peace and harmony." "Just knowing that there is a unity of feeling and thought where Baba devotees gather creates an aura of holiness that is hard to explain." The especially exquisite nagarasankirtan on Sunday morning is described by one participant:

Awakening to a cold morning,
Gathering to chant the OM,
Strolling through heavy dew

Nagarasankirtan leading to face a solitary
Sparkling star in the east,
Adorning the orange glow upon the horizon.

Light and warmth come with the rising sun
Loving thoughts, words, gestures
Without desires, impartially

We come to know we are One.

NORTH ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - The Sathya Sai Baba Center of North St. Louis will host the Sathya Sai Baba 57th Birthday Celebration for the mid-west region. This blessed event will commence at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 20, 1982 and close with morning bhajans on Sunday, November 21, 1982. Meals and housing will be furnished. Please contact Rita Bruce, 25 Fawnwood, St. Louis, Missouri 63128, (314) 894-0493

MID-WEST - The Sathya Sai Baba Sixth Annual Mid-West Regional Conference will be hosted by the North St. Louis devotees from May 28th to May 30th, 1983. For information please contact Malaika Horne, Sathya Sai Baba Center of North St. Louis, 4346 North Euclid Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63115.

CHILDREN'S RETREAT IN CALIFORNIA - Southern California children were blessed with three days of satsang during July at the Sai Children's Camp. The theme was "God is everywhere, in every heart."

Thirty-five Education in Human Values students and teachers gathered at Lawler Lodge in Idyllwild, California for bhajans, prayers, EHV classes, crafts, films, nature walks and devotional singing. Mr. Ken Peterson shared his delightful drawings and stories.

It was a fine family gathering and everyone shared in loving service.

Dina Jorgensen

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA - Concerning the center's progress in what is called the '15-Minute Talk' to review some phase of Baba's teachings, Ojai has made real progress. They have initiated a talk after bhajans each Thursday night except

on the public or open meeting night. The speakers for the month volunteer at the prior business meeting and their names are posted. The tendency at first was to rely on reading Swami's teachings only, with very little comment. With encouragement, the members are learning to express the point in their own words and give examples from personal experiences, using Swami's teachings as the basis.

Confidence is growing among the members. Those who haven't tried a talk are starting to step forward. Those who have been participating are beginning to speak without a written speech or elaborate notes. When the talk comes from the heart and the experience of the speaker everyone present is noticeably uplifted. Members who don't stay for the traditional study group also benefit thereby.

Mark Jorgensen

THE CHAIN LETTER SYNDROME

Some Sai devotees continue to receive copies of a chain letter which is headed, "Shri Sai Baba" and the first sentence starts with "Trust in God with all your heart." Some individuals do obey the demand in the letter and send out copies, otherwise Sai devotees would not continue to receive it. If a recipient sees the nonsense and discards the letter, that is the end of it. If tempted, why not do two things before yielding to the letter's command ?

1. Phone your local postmaster and ask about postal law in respect to the mailing out of anonymous chain letters.
2. Think! What do you suppose Swami would say if you asked him ?

How can we be free if we obey every command that comes our way ? Here is some unknown person who has the unmitigated gall to issue a command to us and expect that we will slavishly obey him or her. The anonymous command is based on the supposition that we are both greedy and afraid. We are afraid of what may happen if we disobey and we are greedy to receive the reward promised for obeying the command. Greed and fear move the world, they do not free us from the world, they do not bring happiness. Just see the nonsense of this particular chain letter, and file it in the waste basket. If you want to take some action, pray that those who send it may recover their good sense.

Jack Hislop

THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

The deeper message of Christmas was expounded by Bhagavan Baba in a discourse he delivered in the College Hostel at Vidagiri, Puttaparthi, before a large audience of devotees and students. Christmas, Bhagavan said, should be observed as a sacred religious rite and not as a festival for drinking and dancing. It must be spent in prayer, offered out of pure love and not for worldly ends. *Love is God. Live in Love*, concluded Bhagavan.

The meaning of the Avatar is this: To save mankind. God out of His love, affection and compassion, comes down to the level of man and arouses the divine consciousness in man. He makes man aware of Him in him, when He finds him desperately searching outside himself for Him Who is his very core.

In order to enable you to reach the highest goal of merging with the Absolute, this chance has been granted to you as the reward of merit acquired in many previous lives. A bird needs two wings to fly; a cart needs two wheels to be pulled along. To journey towards the goal, man needs study and steadfastness, vidya and thapas. The Gita declares that among studies, the study of Atma is the holiest. It is known as Atma Vidya or Brahma Vidya. The vidya shows the way; the thapas makes you reach the soul. The two are the two eyes that fulfill one purpose.

The farmer has to concentrate his efforts during certain favorable seasons, when plowing and sowing have to be done. He cannot afford to count the cost or calculate the trouble. Rain or shine, night or day, he has to do the task so that he can reap the harvest. So, too, for you students this is the period of life when you have to be active and alert. Your future is shaped by what you do now. Now is the very foundational stage for your life when you prepare your minds to meet its challenges and your intelligence to solve its riddles.

You are called 'Vidyarthi', one who seeks vidya. But it is a misfortune that most students seek not vidya (subjective enlightenment) but vishaya (objective pleasure). Both teacher and pupil (guru and shishya) have fallen from the ideal. The pupil should be the player

and the teacher, the director; the pupil should be like Arjuna, the wielder of the bow, the teacher should be like Krishna, the Yogeshwara; the pupil should be purusha and the guru, the purushothama. This is the reason why the guru is exalted as Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara and as Parabrahma Itself. God alone is the guru; others can at best be upadhyayas or adhyapakas (teachers, instructors). The guru out of His infinite compassion and wisdom counsels the most beneficent path. The sishya (pupil) out of his infinite devotion follows it and attains the goal. Arjuna said, after listening to the Lord's counsel, "Karishye vadhanam thaya; I shall act according to your words." You have to be pupils like him. Then you can live in peace and joy in this warring world of misery and demonstrate in your lives the excellence of the Bharathiya tradition and culture.

God is eternal power, omnipotent, omniscient. He is the cause and consequence, the potter, the clay and the pot. Without God, there can be no universe. He willed and the universe happened. It is His play, the manifestation of His power. Man embodies His will, His power, His wisdom. But he is unaware of this glory. The cloud of ignorance veils the truth. God sends sages, saints and prophets to unveil the truth and Himself appears as an Avatar to awaken and liberate him. Two thousand years ago, when narrow pride and thick ignorance defiled mankind, Jesus came as the embodiment of love and compassion and lived among men, holding forth the highest ideals of life. You must pay attention to the lessons He elaborated in the various stages of His life. 'I am the Messenger of God,' He declared first. Yes. Each individual has to accept that role and live as examples of divine love and charity. The guru must act as the alarm clock; he should awaken the sleeper to his duty to himself. "Utthishta! Jagratha!", as the Upanishads proclaim. "Arise! Awake!" And bear witness to the God within, in every thought, word and deed.

This day Christmas is celebrated. Bring to mind the words He uttered, the advice He offered, the warnings He gave, and decide to direct your daily lives along the path He laid down. His words must be imprinted on your hearts and you must resolve to practice all that He taught.

There are two points of view that struggle for acceptance by you, the paramarthika and the vyavaharika, the spiritual and the worldly, the reality-based and the appearance-based. After this discourse is over when you proceed from this hostel building towards Prasanthi Nilayam, imagine you see a snake appearing on the road. In reality it is

only a length of rope. But it appears as a snake and you feel a sense of terror. Your terror does not change the rope into a snake. When you apply light from a torch, you discover that your fear was misplaced and that the rope was ever a rope. The universe is what appears; the reality is divinity, Brahman. When the light of wisdom shines, the truth is revealed. The universe is enveloped in divinity; it is the vesture. Jesus declared, "Death is the dress of life."

Jesus knew that God wills all. So even on the Cross when He suffered agony, He bore no ill will towards any one and He exhorted those with Him to treat all as instruments of His will. "All are one; be alike to everyone". Practice this attitude in your daily lives. Of course it is very difficult to develop unwavering faith in this great truth. The mind, as Arjuna complained, hops from belief to doubt, from one conclusion to its negation and it causes turmoil and confusion. But there is one method by which it can be conquered.

The black bee can bore a hole in the hardest wood. But when dusk intervenes while it is sipping the nectar from the lotus-flower and, as a result, the open petals close in on the bee, it finds itself imprisoned with no hope of escape. It does not know how to deal with softness! So too, the mind can play its tricks and jump wantonly about on any arena. When placed on the lotus feet of the Lord, it becomes inactive and harmless. In order to offer the mind entirely to the Lord, deep detachment from worldly desires is needed. Superficial devotion or shallow steadfastness cannot succeed. To fell the hard sandalwood tree, a heavy axe of steel is needed.

It is the privilege of this stage of life to cultivate this detachment, to subdue the vagaries of the mind, and to manifest the divinity that is latent in you. That divinity when expressed in action blossoms into loving service of fellow beings. It renders the heart pure, free from pride and greed.

Jesus wandered purposefully in lonely places for 12 long years, engaging Himself in study, spiritual exercises and meditation on God. Of course one must protect and preserve the body, which is a divine gift, a boat equipped with instruments through which man can cross the sea of perpetual change and reach divinity. This goal of life has to be reached before the body-boat develops leaks and disintegrates, through illness, sloth and senility. Physical, mental and



ON NOVEMBER 23 WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE
BIRTHDAY OF BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA
SAI BABA

spiritual health has to be fostered with vigilant care. Nevertheless, one must be ever ready to cast the body away in defense of dharma or Daiva (goodness or God). Have Jesus as your ideal for this. He exhorted all to observe the basically valid teachings of the ancient scriptures and to derive peace and joy therefrom.

The Jews held the rituals and regulations laid down by the prophets in the scriptural texts as valid for all time, and so they held the teachings of Jesus as wrong. They were not moved by personal hatred towards Jesus.

This problem arises in every age - the conflict between the letter and the spirit - the doctrines that are held sacred, the mantra or formula that is held to be holy, the various do's and don'ts that have to be scrupulously followed, and the underlying truth. In the Vedic faith also, one can find today this conflict between the upholders of ancient tradition and the promoters of deeper understanding. These latter also base their teachings on the Vedas.

The best way to resolve the confusions and conflicts that hamper moral, ethical, material, technological and spiritual progress is for man to live as fully as man ought to, and rise to the height of the divine that is his reality. That is the one eternal, universal teaching. The thoughts that the intellect frames must be reflected as feeling in the mind and translated into action by the hands. Thought, word and deed must be coordinated. They must fulfill one another. The sign of a holy person or manava is, "Manasyekam Vachasyekam Karmanyekam; One mind, one word, one act." The three are one, not different.

Christmas means the mass that is held on the birthday of Christ. It is fundamentally a sacred religious rite. To deal with it as if it is a festival for drinking and dancing or even for recalling Jesus to memory is very wrong. The day must be spent in prayer; not merely this day, but cultivate the sadhana of prayer as a normal way of life. Prayers for worldly ends do not reach God. They will reach only those deities who deal with such restricted spheres. But all prayers arising from pure love, unselfish eagerness to render service and hearts that are all inclusive will reach God. For God is the very embodiment of love. We know that we have to see the moon only through moonlight. So too, God who is love can be seen and realized only through love. Love is God, live in love. That is the message I give you.

Printed courtesy of the Editors of
SANATHANA SARATHI

WELCOME TO NEW SATHYA SAI BABA CENTERS

- CHERRY VALLEY, CALIFORNIA Joy Thomas, 10320 Frontier Trail
Cherry Valley, CA 92223 (714)845-7379
- ITHACA, NEW YORK Janice Nigro, 52 Highgate Circle
Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 273-4175

WELCOME TO A NEW SATHYA SAI BABA STUDY GROUP

- SEDGWICK, MAINE Melanie Moore, P.O. Box 544
Bluehill, Maine 04614



SATHYA SAI BABA STUDY GROUPS

Joining the family of Sathya Sai Baba centers in the United States will be Sathya Sai Baba study groups. What is a Sathya Sai Baba study group? Bhagavan has told us that an accredited Sathya Sai Baba center must have the minimum number of active members (six in the United States) and be carrying on the full program of center activities, bhajan, study circle, service and Education in Human Values (if there are children). Groups not meeting these requirements but desiring affiliation with the Sathya Sai Baba organization can be recognized as Sathya Sai Baba study groups and will be listed in the Council directory and receive regular contact with and mailings from the Council. A Sathya Sai Baba study group will follow the same Guidelines as a center but will have less activities due to the group's size or preference.

Each Sathya Sai Baba study group will have either bhajan or study circle as their main activity on a weekly basis and the other could be held less frequently. There are some other requirements for study groups but the intention is to allow small or new groups to function comfortably without requirements intended for larger centers with a wide range of activities.

For more information on forming a Sathya Sai Baba study group, contact Richard Bayer, Vice President, Sathya Sai Baba Council of America, 4727 Bonny Doon Road, Santa Cruz, California 95060.

FILM, VIDEO AND CASSETTE TAPES AVAILABLE

SAI Foundation
7911 Willoughby Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90046
(213) 656-9373

In the last issue of the Newsletter a mistaken impression was given to the effect that all of the SAI Foundation products were being offered at a 40% discount. This is not so.

The SAI Foundation offers a 40% discount on all wholesale (two or more) sound tapes and photos for resale in Sathya Sai Baba centers. If you are in California, the SAI Foundation will need your sales tax resale number for our records. If you are ordering from us for the first time, you may take 90 days to pay on your first order (films and video tapes are not included in this offer).

To help share Sai Baba's message with as many people as possible, the SAI Foundation has made available eight 28 minute video programs on 3/4" master tape for public access TV stations. Most cities have a public access TV station and will charge a small fee (\$10.00 to \$15.00) to preview the program for content. They will then put it on their schedule. If you should want to arrange for a public access showing in your area, let the Foundation know in advance so they can tell you the availability of a specific program. These programs are as follows:

1. THE UNIVERSAL TEACHER - three 28 minute segments
2. AURA OF DIVINITY - two 28 minute segments
3. CELEBRATION - two 28 minute segments
4. HIS LIFE IS HIS MESSAGE - one 28 minute segment

The SAI Foundation will send the 3/4" videos to you at no charge and pay the postage. As they have only one master for each program it is first come, first served. Please return the tapes as soon as possible so the next center can be served. If there are any questions, please feel free to call or write. These programs have been successfully shown on public access in New York City and in Los Angeles.

NEW STEREO CASSETTES FROM THE SAI FOUNDATION

- SC016, SAI BHAJANS, Volume II; sung by Mahimajumdar and the Chicago devotees. Price: \$5.00
- SC017, CHRISTMAS EVE 1981 WITH SATHYA SAI BABA; Songs from Around the World; Side I, Christmas Eve with Swami in the round house at Prasanthi Nilayam; Side II, Christmas Satsang in shed #8 December 23, 1981. Total of 75 minutes. Price: \$6.00

Many other items are available from the SAI Foundation. Please write for the complete catalog.

California residents please add appropriate sales tax for your area.

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Book
Center of America
P.O. Box 278
Tustin, California 92680
(714) 669-0522

- SATHYA SAI VAHINI, written by Sri Sathya Sai Baba. An in-depth account of the universal teachings of Sri Baba. By popular demand this volume is on order. There may be a waiting period for this book. Price will be approximately \$2.00

BOOKS WORTH MENTIONING AGAIN

Because of the public acceptance of these volumes, we take the liberty to mention them again.

- SAIKRISHNALILA, by William Jackson. This is a book of stories of the child Krishna gathered from Sri Sathya Baba's writings and discourses and composed into a narrative poem. Price \$3.60
- GLORY OF PUTTAPARTI, by V. Balu. Interviews and personal accounts of how Sri Baba has brought deeper understanding into the lives of devotees, and includes Mr. Balu's own story. Price \$5.75
- SIXTEEN SPIRITUAL SUMMERS, by Indulal Shah. Mr. Shah describes his sixteen years of service to Baba and his part in organizing the Sri Sathya Sai Baba World Council headquartered in India. Price \$4.50

INTERVIEW

The following interview took place December 26, 1981 during morning darshan at Prasanthi Nilayam, India

I was elated, very nervous and filled with excitement. Sri Baba had instructed our small group of twelve to go to the interview room. How many life times have come and gone to have earned such grace.

There was an empty space to the right of Baba's chair. To think he had reserved a space by his side just for me. Needless to say, I took it.

I must have been in a trance-like state because Sri Baba was talking directly to me and I couldn't hear a word he was saying. My heart was pounding so loudly I was certain the entire group could hear it. Baba gently slapped me on the cheek as if to wake me up. I heard him saying, *There is only one God and He is omnipotent. There is only one religion, the religion of love. There is only one caste, the caste of humanity. There is only one law, the law of work (duty). There is only one language, the language of the heart.* I had read this many times but to hear it come from Swami himself was an incredibly moving experience.

Raising an eyebrow Baba asked, *What is the end result of education? Character. The things we are taught must be put to practice in one's life. To learn and store knowledge is uselessness.*

Baba looked out over the group, paused a moment and said very firmly, *You should never pay for spirituality. Never pay for a mantra (a chant with spiritual significance). God is for free. God is for all. Money should be your first clue to stay away. He then added, Stay away from psychics and people of that sort.*

A member of our group asked if she could stay at Prasanthi Nilayam. Swami said, *This is your home and I am your servant.* He then looked at each one of us and said, *I am up night and day to serve you. My right hand is always giving, giving, giving.*

He continued by saying, *Monkey thoughts, mad monkey thoughts are not good.* Sai was letting me know that he knew about the emotional illness I had suffered for the past two years. I looked at Swami and asked if he could help me with this phase of my life. He

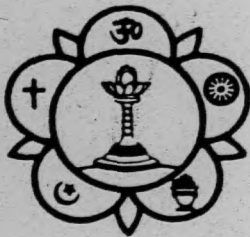
gave me a divine smile, placed his hand on my head and told me, *I will bless*. He also told me that the **Gayatri* mantra (a chant of very high spiritual significance) and repetition of the name of the Lord would bring me total restoration. Somehow I knew he knew everything about me, every thought, word and deed.

During the interview Baba continued talking. Again I didn't know what he was saying because I was in that trance-like state. All I could do was silently tell him "I love you, I love you." Suddenly Baba turned his head toward me and in a voice I shall never forget he said, *I love you too*.

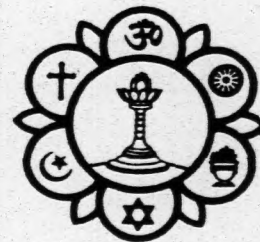
John DeLuca

* For more information on the Gayatri mantra, please refer to the Bhajan column, page 16, of the SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER, Summer, 1982, Vol. 6 No. 4 .





SRI BABA AND JUDAISM



For many years Jewish devotees of Sri Baba have been feeling partially excluded because the Star of David was not included in the Sarvadharmas symbol (shown above) which made it difficult in sharing the message of Baba with Jewish relatives and friends.

The explanations from some scholars was that the symbol was mainly intended for India, that Christianity covers Judaism, and that the Jews prayed for a Messiah who came and they rejected Him. These answers were all unsatisfactory to the Jewish Sai devotee.

During the 3rd World Conference held at Prasanthi Nilayam in November, 1980, the question of how to help various groups feel welcome into the Sai family arose. Many suggestions were made by Jewish devotees, one of which was the celebration of Chanukah, the Jewish festival of lights, at the ashram.

On December 1st, Swami gave a group interview to thirty-three Jewish devotees. Besides talking about the Jewish religion, Sai Baba reaffirmed that there is only one God and that all religions pray to the same God. By whatever name God is called, He hears. Laws that are dharmic (righteous) for Hindus are dharmic for Jews, Christians and all other groups.

Baba gave permission for a Chanukah celebration to be held. In two days all the arrangements had to be made including the learning of proper protocol.

On December 3, 1980, at 5:40 p.m., a procession of two lines, one of men and the other of women, left the gate of Swami's residence in Brindavan and proceeded to the Krishna statue under the Aum Sri Sai Ram shed. Hundreds of other devotees were waiting for darshan. The participants sang "Havenu Shalom Aleichem" while Sri Baba joined the procession.

Strung between two poles in front of the Krishna statue was a banner saying "Happy Chanukah" with a Star of David hanging from each post which was wrapped with blue paper. Swami's chair was immediately in front of the statue and to the right was a Jewish Menorah (a candle holder that has spaces for eight candles at the same level, with a

ninth candle in a higher position).

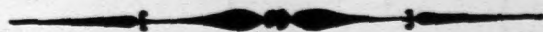
As the procession reached this point the participants sat down. Swami gave darshan to the others. When he came to the Menorah he lit the upper candle and one of the eight other candles, as well as a candle someone was holding. Hebrew prayers were chanted.

Swami seemed to enjoy this celebration. As we learned later many devotees were brought to tears by this simple ceremony. Sri Baba by one simple act of lighting candles had deeply touched the hearts of those present. In one historic moment he "officially" welcomed all Jews into the Sai family. He has symbolically led us out of the land of bondage into freedom, and has fulfilled our needs.

Sai Baba who has always taught and practiced the unity of all religions has declared to the world that Judaism is part of the brotherhood of religions. If there were any doubts in the minds of men, let them be dispelled forever. Swami teaches that each person should follow his own religion to the best of his ability. In doing so we are reaffirming the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. We are all one.

So let it be known that the Avatar has incarnated in a human form not to declare that he is Hindu but that he has come for all mankind. Yes, Sri Baba is Jewish, as well as Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Parsi, etc. He is all.

Shalom,
Sai Ram,
Gerald Dominick



So the Lord has to come in human form, so that he can be listened to, contacted, loved, revered and obeyed. He has to speak the language of men and behave like human beings, as a member of the species. The human mind cannot grasp the absolute, attributeless principle. It is abstract and beyond the reach of speech, mind and intellect.

Baba

CHRISTMAS ON A RANCH

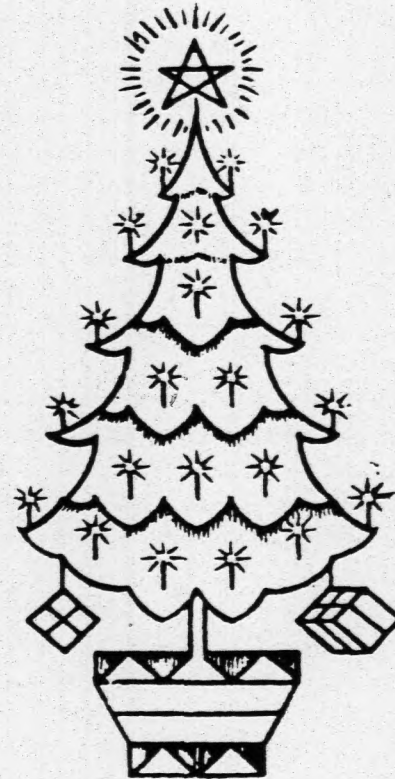
Christmas on a ranch ain't much different from any other time
You still got chores to do, animals to feed, the pump to prime,
Things just feel different this time o' year and it's kinda nice
To know that Jesus was born during this time of cold and ice.

Little things that happen every day you
 really notice more
Things that make you feel 'specially good
 and that you're thankful for;

The warm feeling of a fire, and the smell
 of burning wood
The sound of leather creaking as you cinch
 the saddle up good.

The warm steamy clouds of breath when the
 cows are eatin' hay
And the hot cup of coffee at the end of a
 hard cold day.
Little things that add up to the feelin'
 that peace and love are here
That Christ again walks the earth and His
 Kingdom of Love is near.

There's just a feelin' of closeness 'twèen
 you and yer fellow man
Like someone was near and helpin' you, some-
 one holdin' your hand.
That's the feelin' of Christmas - the spirit that's in the air
The feelin' that He is close to us seems to be everywhere.



Leonard Bischel

The SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER has moved. Our new address is:
1800 EAST GARVEY AVENUE, WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA 91791

THE WAY OF JESUS

A DIVINE DISCOURSE GIVEN BY SRI SATHYA SAI BABA
ON CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 1979, AT WHITEFIELD, BRINDAVAN, INDIA

There are four types of persons, those who see only right everywhere, those who are less spiritual in their vision and so see right as right and wrong as wrong, those who shut their eyes to right and see only wrong and lastly, worst of all, those who judge even the right to be wrong. No one brings wealth when he is born or takes it with him when he dies. Whatever riches one has accumulated have to be freely shared with others. The flowers scatter fragrance; the trees offer fruit in plenty. Instead of learning the lessons they teach, man pursues his own sense-cravings, and his urge for fame and authority over others. Contentment is the most precious wealth; greed brings misery in its train. Contentment alone can lead man to the goal of life, the attainment of Divinity.

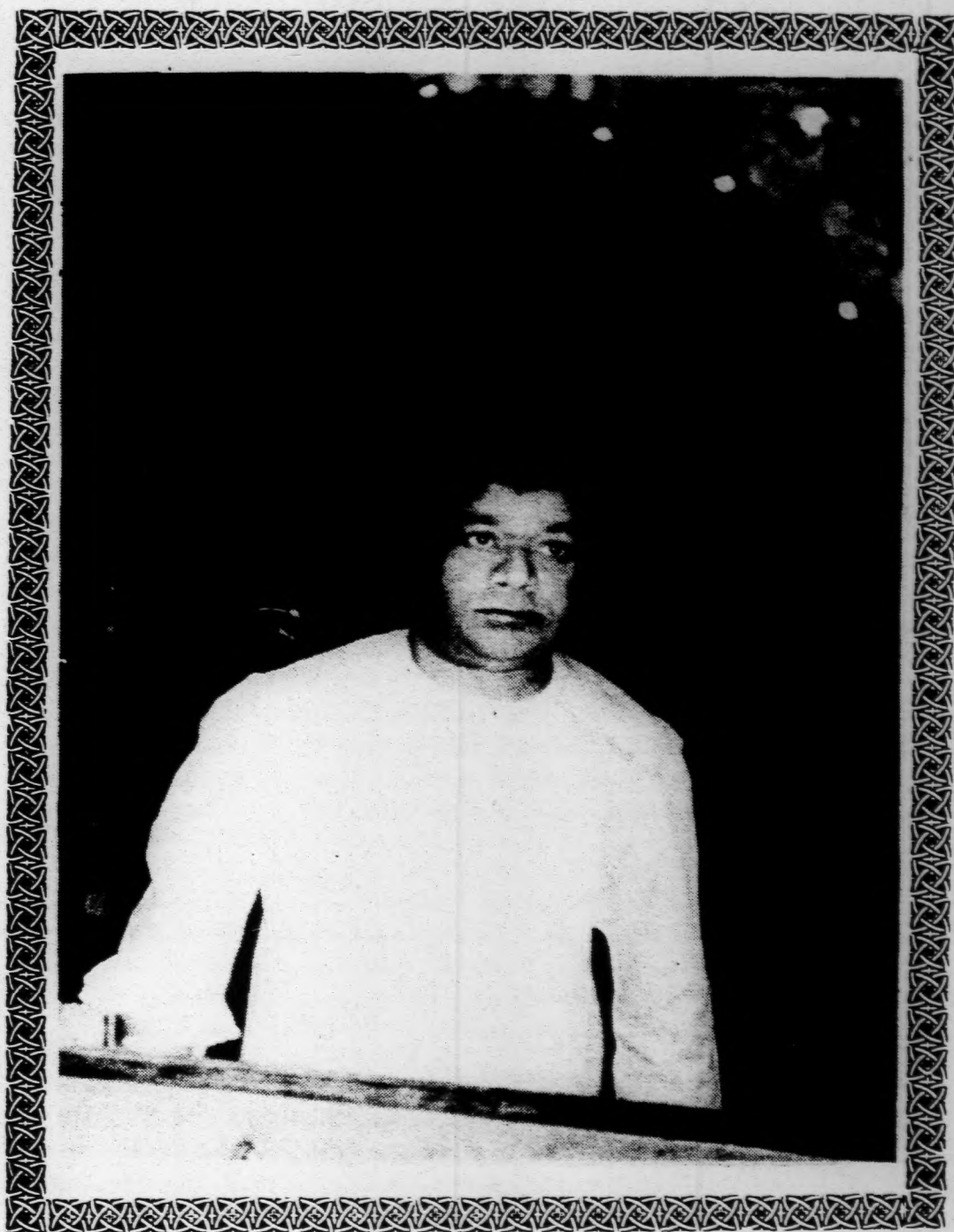
A tender heart is more valuable than all material possessions. When moral and spiritual excellence is gained, the divinity of man becomes patent. Viswamitra was a powerful king, proud of his might and the vastness of his kingdom. He wished to defeat the Sage Vasishtha but could not succeed. Thus he learned the lesson that material physical or mental powers are too weak to win over Divine Power. So, he entered upon spiritual sadhana to rid his mind of anger, greed and envy. As a result, he became a sage. The Kaurava Brothers, a hundred of them, were intoxicated by greed for more, though they had riches in plenty and kingdoms vast in area; so they contended with their cousins, the God-fearing and God-led Pandava Brothers who were only five in number. In the end the Kauravas destroyed themselves to the last man and the Pandavas were blessed with victory. The brothers, Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakasipu, succeeded in securing as boons from God mastery over the elements but they misused this power and spread havoc over all the worlds. So they were destroyed by the very evil they had let loose. Man has to acquire the mastery over the foul urges in his own mind, lust, anger, hatred, jealousy. Then only can he enjoy the Divine Peace that is his birthright.

Every living being is on a pilgrimage, whether they are aware of it or not. The Bhagavatha Purana, the ancient scriptural text, says that the destiny of all beings is to return to their origin. Lord Krishna has declared in the Gita that all beings have emerged from

Him and have to merge in Him. The sun causes clouds in the sky raising water from the sea as vapor, the waters of the sea fall as rain, the rain water accumulates and flows as streams and rivers, until it merges with the source, the sea. It is faithful to its destiny; it confronts bravely all the losses and obstacles on the pilgrim path. Every man has come into this world as a Messenger of God.

Jesus announced himself as a Messenger of God. He spent many years in austerities so that he could shower compassion and love on all humanity. Later he asked himself, "Am I just a messenger, or am I more closely related to God, a part of God with the Divine as my essence?" Jesus spent twelve long years wandering alone in deserts engaged in this inquiry. At the end of this period, he returned to the society of men and announced, "I am the Son of God," and showered on the people Divine Love, Power, and Wisdom.

At that time the priests of the holy temples of Jerusalem had become corrupt and commercialized. They had deteriorated into proud and selfish men. Jesus condemned them and tried to root out the evil practices. For all forms in the eyes of Jesus were in the Divine Form and he could not tolerate any action which tried to bely this status. So, when asked by people who he was, he could reply, "I and my Father are One." Jesus tried to teach everyone the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Tradition-minded and egoistic men considered Jesus a false prophet and they tried by every means to thwart his mission. Jesus, however, did not waver. Faced with opposition of all sorts, he continued to be an example of living Truth and to purify society. Many disciples followed Jesus but throughout history, it has been the experience of Rama, Krishna, Jesus and Muhammad that disciples however close are seldom fully dedicated. Most are only part-time devotees. Jesus had 12 disciples, most of whom had faith in him and lived his teachings. But, Judas yielded to bribery. His greed made him betray his Master for a mere 32 coins. He could not find joy in life after this treachery. His mind gave him no peace. He had to seek refuge in suicide. Betrayal by people who pretend to adore is happening since ages. Corrupt, greedy, and selfish people spread falsehoods about their masters. We hear of just a few Judases, 2,000 years ago. But in the Kali age, people are obsessed with money and Judases have multiplied. They seek to amass paltry riches whereas good character, good conduct and knowledge of God are the three treasures to be gathered. Land and buildings, silver and gold, dollars and other



NOVEMBER 23, 1982 IS THE 57th BIRTHDAY
OF BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

currencies are temporary and trivial. They are possessions only until life lasts. But these three treasures will stay on, sustain you and strengthen you until you attain union with the Infinite.

Man has mastered astronomy; he knows all about the earth. He is conversant with all that is happening in America, Russia and England. But he does not know who he is, and so all other knowledge does not make him wise. He is eager to collect information about everything else but he never asks the question "Who am I?" though he uses the expression "I" and "my" freely almost always. You are the farmer; the body is the field. Sow the seeds of goodness, you can get the harvest of happiness now; sow the seeds of evil, you reap the harvest of grief. You are the cause of either of these. Do not blame others or impute the partiality to God. Above all, do not rely on this impermanent objective world; it is full of sorrow and change. Cultivate detachment, equanimity and self-control and love. Develop Divine Knowledge about the higher levels of consciousness and the higher planes of existence. Knowledge leads to skill. From the skills in using such knowledge one acquires balance. You must recognize that this life is a stage in the lone pilgrimage and that we are now at a hotel, a temporary resting place which has also a watchman. The mind is the watchman. So, do not feel permanently attached to the mind or the body. This "negative" body has the "positive" Divinity within it. When you become all-embracing infinite Love, the Divine will manifest in and through you. Try to be like Jesus.

Jesus was a person whose only joy was in spreading Divine Love, offering Divine Love, receiving Divine Love and living on Divine Love.

There are various theories about the date of the birth of Jesus based on the "bright star" that appeared on his birth. It is visible once in 800 years it is said. Some say he was born on the fifteenth day of September, but he was born at 3:15 a.m. (early morning) on December 24, 1,980 years ago. It was Sunday. The star that appeared that day appears only once in 800 years. Its appearance had nothing to do with the birth of Jesus. There is no rule that when Divine Energy or Divine Incarnation descends on earth, a star has to appear. That is the opinion of devotees only. But, Jesus was himself a "Star" of infinite value, spreading brilliance of infinite dimension. Why posit another less brilliant glow?

Today is the Birth Day of Jesus, celebrated amidst December snow falls with lights and Christmas trees and prayers. But it is use-

less to pray just one day and forget God through the rest of the year. It is an empty show. It does not emanate from the heart. We are true Christians only when we live according to the teachings of Christ and practice them in daily life. Even if we follow two teachings of His, that would be enough. Christ said, "All life is one, my dear Son! Be alike to every one."

If we truly follow this it would be enough to fulfill our destiny. When He was on the Cross and overcome with agony, an unseen Voice said from Heaven, "Death is the dress of life". The body is the dress which the Divine Spirit puts on. Therefore, we should not weep when the body is worn out or falls or is injured. Death is an event that is the very nature of the body. Men seek the cause for death but no one seeks the Divine Source of life. Be engaged during the brief span of life in glorifying God and in doing God's work.

God has incarnated in human form in order to inspire man to follow higher ideals not only in India but in foreign countries also. Men may be different in languages and life-styles but God is One and He is present everywhere. All religions speak of Him as Love and as attainable through Love. Forms of worshipping God differ for they are shaped by time and place, but Love is the basic content of all the forms. The language of Love is understood and spoken by all hearts. There is only one race really and that is the race of mankind. We now consider petty distinctions of nationality, race, religion and language as vital and hold back Love which must flow to every one from the heart. That was the life and message of Jesus. Nurture it in your hearts. Experience Jesus as your Messenger sent from God.

Love alone can reveal to you the Divinity latent in all. Love is God. Live in Love. Love lives by giving and forgiving. Self lives by getting and forgetting. Love is selflessness. Selfishness is Lovelessness. Do not waste your life pursuing the narrow interests of the self. Love! Love! Become what you truly are - the embodiments of Love. No matter how others treat you or what they think of you, do not worry. Follow Jesus Christ. Love for your own evolution and not for what others say. Do not imitate others. Cultivate your own life. You have your own heart, your own opinion, your ideas, your own will. Why then imitate? Imitation is human, they say; but Creation is Divine. Follow your chosen path. Let your own experience of God be your guide and master. Do not go to the grave copying others. You won't find God if you search in

the outside world. Your own heart shining with Love is God's Love. Follow the Master. Face the Devil. Fight to the end and finish the game. You are God. The true you is God.

You are not one person, but three; the one you think you are, the one others think you are and the one you really are. You think of yourself as your body and its sense cravings. Others think of you as a personality. You are truly Infinite spirit Divine. You should constantly remind yourself, "I am God" "I am God" "I am God". The day you see yourself as God, you become God.

If you think "I am human" you will be led astray. Do not allow your body and the senses to dictate your moves. Develop the inner vision. The body is the cart, the Spirit is the horse. Do not put the cart before the horse. Spiritual practice is the only means of acquiring mental comfort and peace. If all the cars in America are placed end to end, they would reach the moon. But there is no true happiness there, no Divine Bliss, no peace of mind. Cultivate not riches, not comfort and luxuries, but Divine Virtues. Then you become fit to receive God's Grace. Why trade permanent peace of mind for impermanent physical luxuries?

Speak sweetly and give comfort with every glance of yours. Do not be slaves to your sensual desires. Prahlada told his father who had conquered the three worlds that he had failed to conquer lust and desire. You should conquer lust and vanquish anger. Exile from your mind greed, hate and jealousy. Dedicate your hands to the service of mankind. Jesus teaches infinite Love and Compassion. To resurrect Love and Compassion, you must kill jealousy and selfishness. Purify your hearts. Earn the true mercy of Jesus. Follow the path shown by Him and reach the position He holds.

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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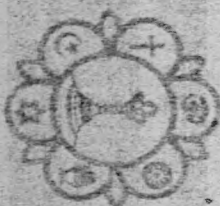
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