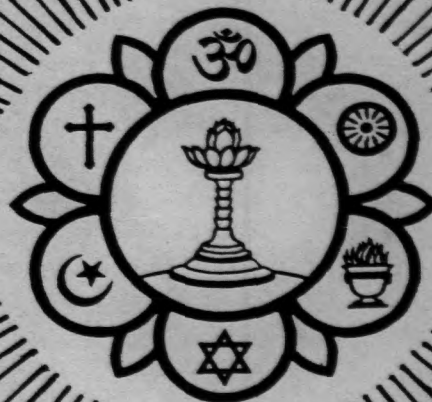




SATHYA SAI Newsletter

WINTER 1990-1991
Volume 15, Number 2

SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER

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

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Photographs, drawings, and literary contributions are always welcomed by the **Sathya Sai Newsletter**. We reserve the right of discrimination in selecting and editing material for publication. Send contributions to: **Sathya Sai Newsletter**, 1800 East Garvey Avenue, West Covina, California 91791.

500
A/P

*All mankind is
an aspect of God.
You are not just a
reflection of nature,
and a conglomerate
of the five ele-
ments. You are not
just a reflection of*

*worldly aspects. You are my own aspect which does not perish at all. This
faith should be instilled in the hearts of all, only then will you be able to do
service without a flaw.*



-Sathya Sai Baba

From a discourse, November 24, 1990

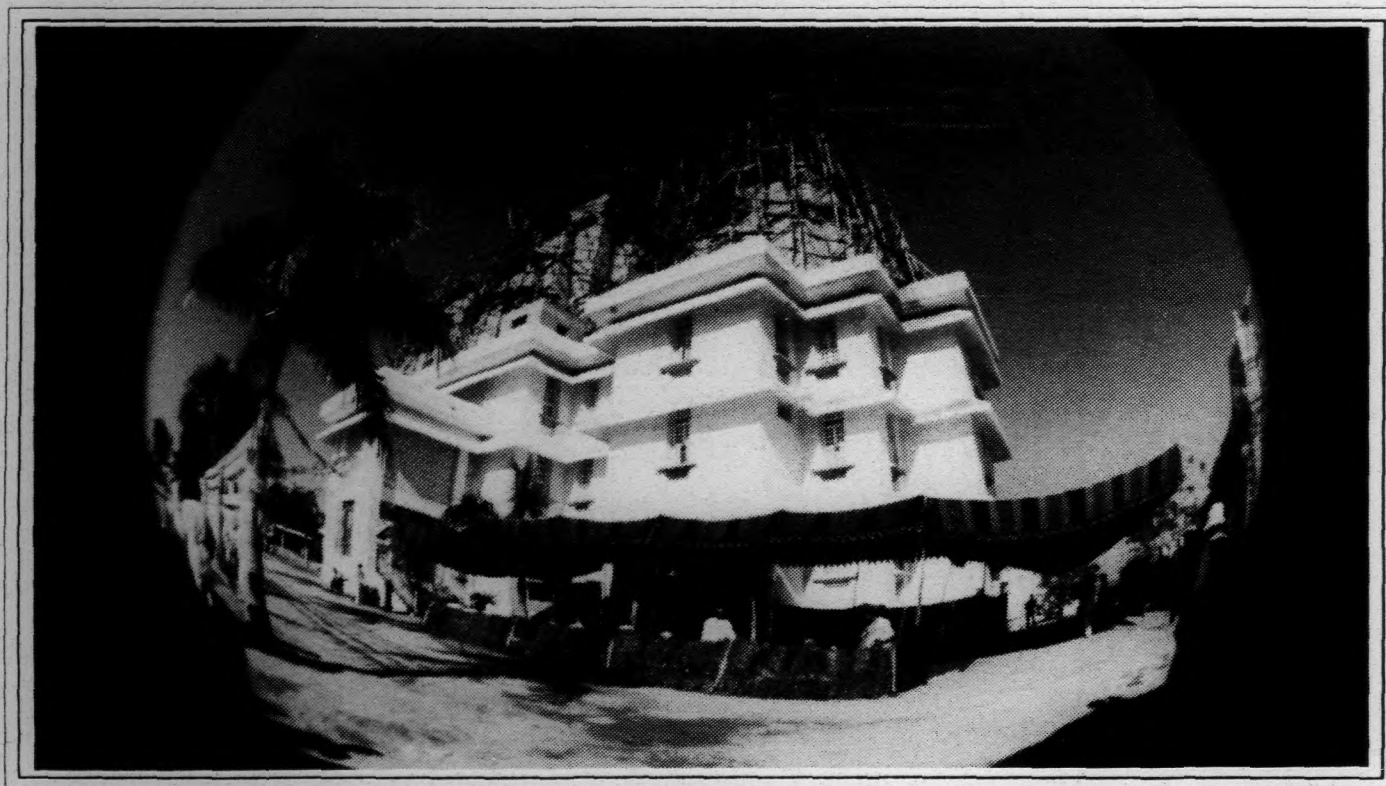
AN OVERVIEW

Events of the Fifth World Conference

The 19th to the 24th of November was an extremely busy time for all who were in attendance at Prasanthi Nilayam. The events actually began on November 18th, with a free feeding for the poor. These feedings take place often, but this one was particularly auspicious as it was the first of many activities that followed. The six-day celebration was in honor of the **Golden Jubilee of the Advent of the Avatar**, the **Fifth World Conference**, and the **65th Birthday of Sathya Sai Baba**.

The hundreds of thousands of people who came from 98 countries were all given accommodations with electric lights, running water, and sanitation facilities, even though many of the accommodations were tents erected just for the occasion. During those days everyone was also given free food from the canteens.

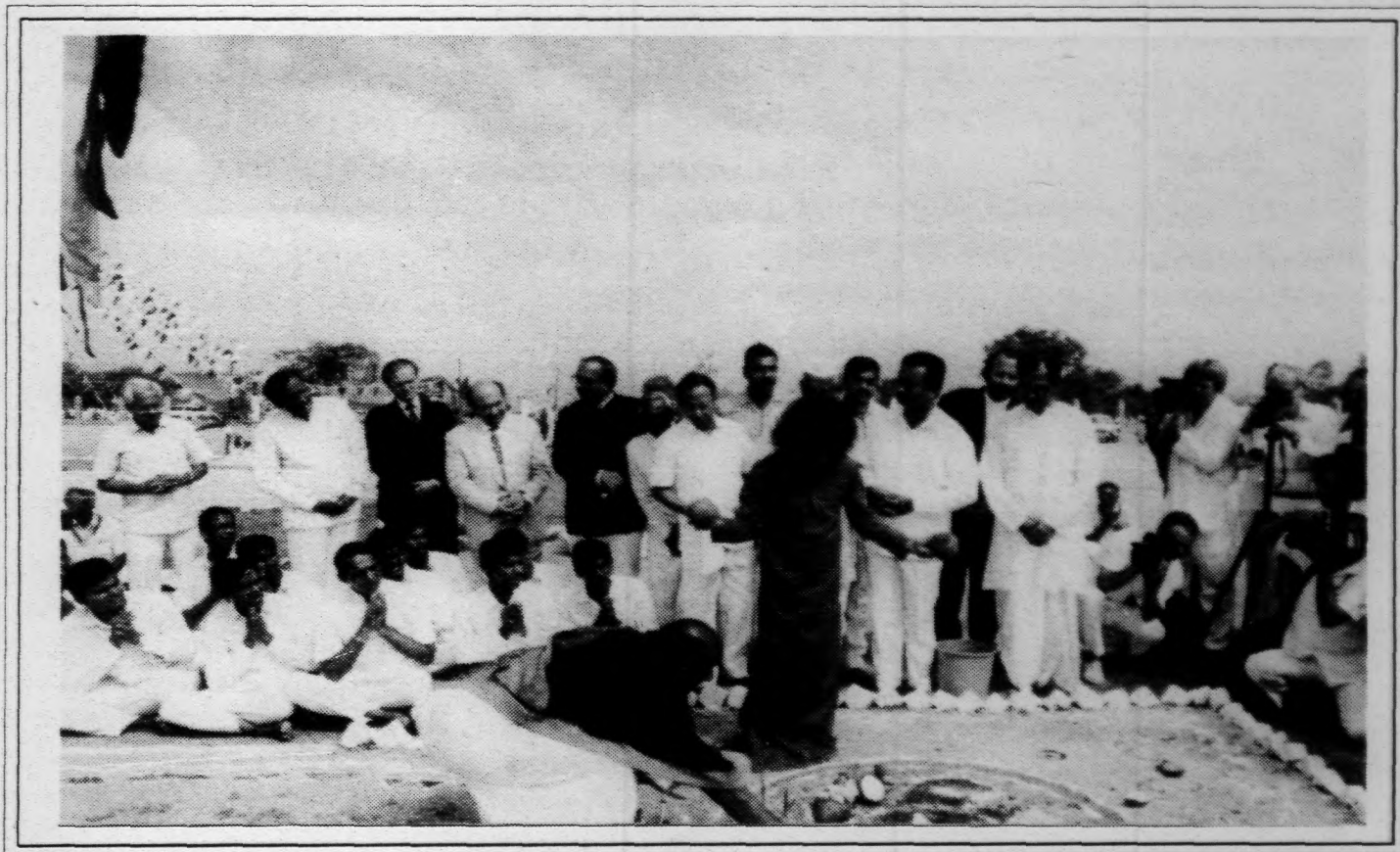
Sathya Sai Baba conducted the opening ceremony of the **Eternal Heritage Museum**. This new building houses permanent displays of spiritual exhibits from various cultures. As one enters the main hall, he is greeted by the sound of *Om*, which sets the mood of reverential respect for all religions and philosophies.



The Eternal Heritage Museum

Each day there were long lines waiting to see the temporary **Overseas Exhibit of Activities, Books, and Publications**. This artistic display graphically illustrated the many service projects and publications that are being done, in the name of Sai, throughout the world. One of the displays from the USA was a large map of this country with a collage of photographs depicting some of the spiritual, educational, and service projects which take place.

During this busy week another landmark event took place. The foundation stone was laid for the forthcoming **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medicine Hospital**. The hospital will offer free medical services, and is to be opened on November 22, 1991. For those who may not have heard, there is also the new **Sathya Sai Airport** just adjacent to the hospital. Could it be that the Divine Plan is to enable patients to be flown directly to the hospital?



Sai Baba at the laying of the foundation stone for the new hospital

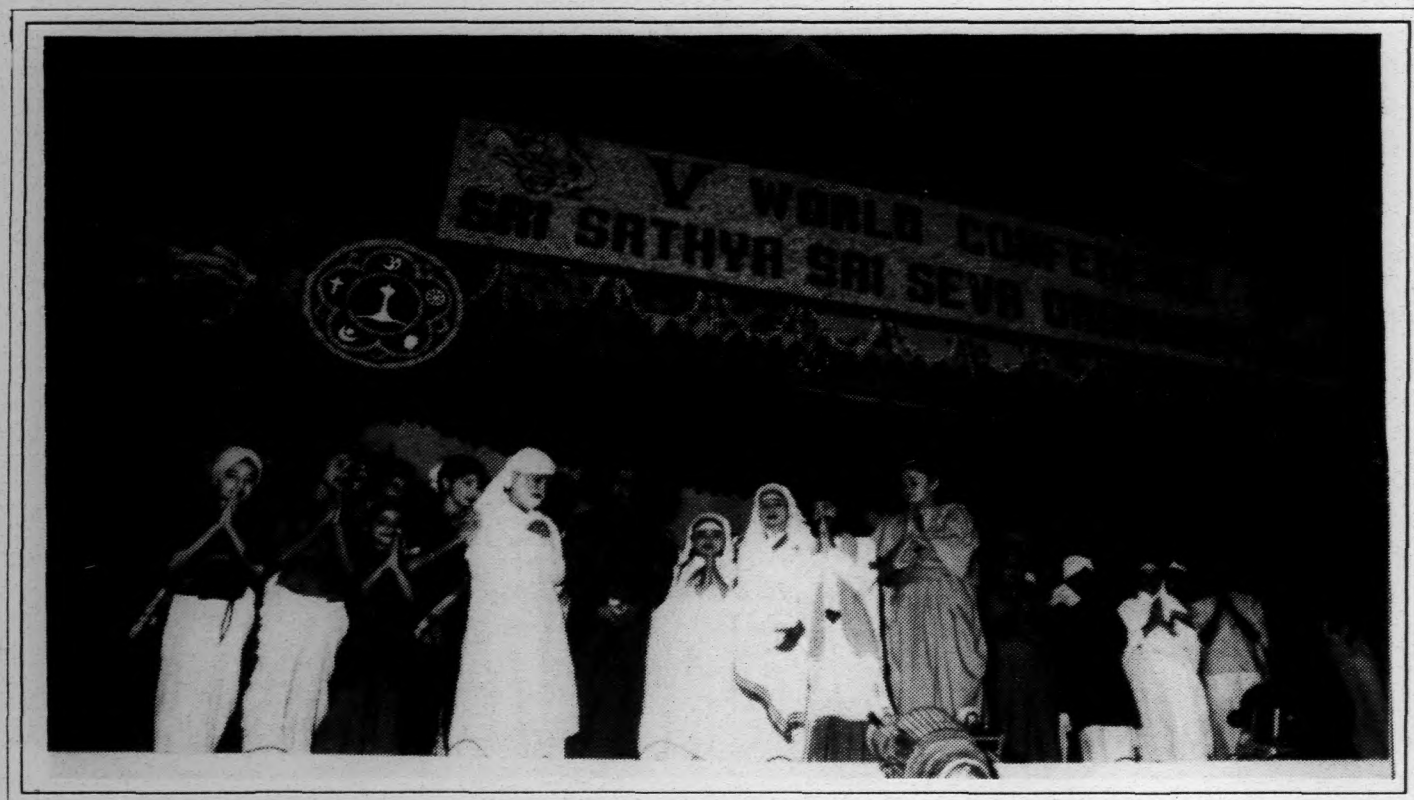
A multi-national group attended the **Fifth World Conference**. Discussions during the conference were focused on the three wings—Spiritual, Educational, and Service—of the Sathya Sai Organizations. All devotees were invited to attend and participate. It was not necessary for them to be delegates or officers.

During one of the meetings, Dr. Jumsai, the nuclear physicist from Thailand, told the audience, "When we harm someone we harm ourselves. Therefore, it is like a cancer cell that destroys all other cells, weakens the body, and ultimately kills the body. In this process, it too, is killed. . . . Always look for profit when serving! The profit is grace, joy, delight, and His love. . . ."

Dr. William Harvey from the USA, suggested having more conferences to learn how to improve the Sai Centers. He said, "The biggest room is room for improvement. . . . The only way to get people to do what is correct is by example, by example, by example. . . ."

As a result of the **Fifth World Conference** a world-wide reorganization plan is being implemented. The plan is designed to create greater expansion, better understanding, and more participation for all Sai devotees. For more information see the report on page 27.

The **Bal Vikas** children and the students of the **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning** gave cultural, musical, and dramatic programs. To the delight of the audience, the young people displayed outstanding ability for theater, music, and dance. Baba showed His love and approval for their work by greeting them on stage after the performance.



Baba greeting the students after their performance

Although all these events took place to honor Sathya Sai Baba, it was Baba Himself who did all the giving. There were gifts of food, clothing, living accommodations, and long, beautiful *darshans*. But the events that were anticipated with the most pleasure were the **Divine Discourses** which were given for six consecutive evenings at Hillview Stadium. Swami would sing part of each discourse in His melodious voice, making the presentation even sweeter.

Each afternoon Baba would arrive at the stadium during the singing of devotional songs. The singing would accelerate as Sai Baba's car arrived—all eyes fixed on the Form as He stepped out of the automobile.

Before Swami gave His discourse there were speakers from India and abroad. Our own Dr. Michael Goldstein and Mr. Robert Bozzani from the USA gave brief talks. And from India, Mr. Indulal Shah, International Chairman of the Sri Sathya Sai Organizations, was always on hand to introduce speakers and help coordinate the program. Sri R. Venkataraman, President of India, was a special guest at the **Ninth Convocation** for students graduating from the **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**.

In spite of the enormous crowds, everyone had the opportunity to see and hear Baba. Even those at the far end of the stadium were not forgotten. There was a network of loud speakers and closed circuit television sets, so not a word or an expression of Baba's was missed by the masses.

All of the discourses are included, either in part or in complete form, in this issue of the *Sathya Sai Newsletter*. It is hoped that they give the readers as much joy and enlightenment as they brought to those who were in Hillview Stadium.

—Editor

Service drives our evil qualities and tendencies away. Therefore, we consider service to be a very important spiritual discipline. We are born to serve, and not to become leaders. Every human being in the world is basically a servant. Mother and child, wife and husband, master and servant, all serve each other. The world can attain progress, prosperity, and peace only through selfless service, and having the feeling of being a servant of society. One can reach Divinity only with this attitude.

—Sathya Sai Baba

From a discourse, November 20, 1990

SAI SPEAKS ON SERVICE

Excerpted from Divine Discourse, November 19, 1990

All actions of the body, all words of the tongue, all thoughts of the mind, all functions of the senses, all contemplations of the intellect, all reflections of the heart, and all routine activities performed with discipline, are worthless unless they are dedicated as offerings to God. The service activities of the Sathya Sai Organizations will be sanctified as true service only when they are dedicated as service to God.

KARMA

The entire universe is filled with God, and it is full of *karma* (action). *Karma* is the life force and the basis of mankind. The human body is meant for *karma*. Man has originated from *karma*. Hence, all functions performed by mankind are godly. When *karma* is performed with ego, selfishness, and a desire to get a fruitful return, man is subjected to rebirth again and again. All the *karma* performed with a mind dedicated to the Lord will be pure and sacred. Mankind has to realize the difference between them and act appropriately. The main purpose of human life is to perform selfless *karma*. One should realize that the very purpose of the body is to serve others.

Society consists of the rich, middle class, and the poor. The rich man owes his position to the services of his fellow beings, without whose help and cooperation, he could not have attained such a lofty position in life. Therefore, it is his obligation and duty to help them, in return, with gratitude. All of humanity is endowed with the powers of wealth, physical strength, and education. These must be utilized properly for the good of society. No one can predict how, when, or where different things happen to an individual. Remember, it is quite possible that a millionaire can become a pauper. We must exercise our powers for the benefit of society. The rich should serve the poor with the idea of serving the God within them, and not merely helping mechanically while giving food, clothing, and shelter. God resides only in the hearts of those people who decide to help others with a feeling of dedication to the Lord.

All good and bad are associated with the *karma* performed by mankind. All joys and sorrows are the result of our *karma*. It is our ignorance to assume that we have friends and enemies. All our bad acts are our enemies, and all our good acts are our friends.

UTILIZING TIME

Time is responsible for everything. All riches and poverty, joy and sorrow happen according to the destiny of time, and no one can escape it. Time is not the servant of the body, the body is the servant of time. Therefore, you can never say when anything will happen. We must utilize time by performing good *karma* without aspiring for the fruits thereof. We have to perform all actions for the pleasure and satisfaction of God, in worship and dedication to Him.

HOW TO SERVE

Karma becomes spiritual discipline when it is done as selfless service. The correct attitude is beneficial to the person rendering service, as well as to others. In fact, you are not doing service for others. You are always doing it for yourself, for the God within you, and the God who is equally present in others.

Rich people should not attempt to preach to those who have hungry stomachs, but must try to remedy their suffering. The poor should be inspired to practice their activities with courage and conviction. The educated should try to eradicate illiteracy among their fellow beings, and prepare them for life. The mighty should use their strength to mitigate the suffering of the poor,

diseased, and depressed. One may be a lawyer, a doctor, or a business person, but all should utilize their professional skills for the betterment of the poor. This should be done with charity, philanthropy, and modesty.

Service is the highest spiritual discipline! *Japa* (repeating the Name), *dhyana* (meditating), proficiency in the *Sastras* (scriptures), or the mastery of *Vedic* texts, cannot help you to reach the goal as quickly as *seva* (selfless service). *Seva* serves two purposes: one, the extinction of the ego, and two, the attainment of *ananda* (bliss). *Seva* will reveal the unity in diversity. Train yourselves to serve God by serving mankind.

We must be grateful to the society which provides us with all the amenities. Unfortunately, mankind has become ungrateful. Gratitude is the life force of mankind. If we aspire for a better future we should recognize our present and be grateful for it.

SAI ORGANIZATION

With a sense of purpose and enthusiasm, the Sathya Sai Organizations must move forward in the field of service to society.

Today, *lakhs* (hundreds of thousands) of people from distant countries have come here giving up all comforts and conveniences, and they have assembled here in the midst of

many limitations. But they have feelings of solidarity, Divinity, and unity. This level of single-mindedness and solidarity cannot be found in any other organization—just in the Sathya Sai Organizations. Men and women from different parts of the world, with contrasting cultures and languages, are willing to let go of these differences and move together as a single unit with love, compassion, and integrity. They are enjoying the bliss which is possible only in the Sai Organizations.

We must become exemplary models by resolving to promote this feeling of love beyond our limited boundaries, and extend it to the entire world. We cannot derive bliss if service is performed with ostentatious publicity.

Today, the world is filled with fear and anxiety. We must drive away fear and act with courage—without thinking of the future—and we must enter into service with love and faith. We must protect truth (*sathya*) and righteous actions (*dharma*), and will in turn, be protected. That is the message of the heart. Mankind has to drive away evil traits like anger and greed. We must live together, and move together as divine children.

Creation is the result of God's thoughts and will. Therefore, cultivate only godly thoughts. We must

always remember this fact, then evil thoughts will not enter us. Constantly remind yourself, I am an aspect of Divinity. Just as God is important, man, too, is equally important. With this faith, enter society and participate in service.

Service cannot always be taken up effectively by other organizations, including the government. The Sathya Sai Organizations can attain success in this and achieve peace in the country. All of you can enjoy peace in the world very shortly, but you have to convert your hearts with dedication to God. Only then can you achieve what you determine. The Sai Organization has achieved tremendous success during the last 25 years due to the service performed by its members. We need not take into account the disturbances and difficulties that sometimes arise. Instead, distribute the good, promote it, and share it with others.

—Sathya Sai Baba

GOD KNOWS ALL

What lies behind and lies ahead
are blended.

And God alone knows how it all
began and ended.

—Hanna Hamilton
Desert Hot Springs, California

SAI SPEAKS ON HOW TO GAIN GOD'S LOVE

Excerpted from Divine Discourse, November 20, 1990

We have to preach boldly to destroy the hatred based on the differences of caste and religion. That message has to be declared loudly to all people on the divine path, who serve the helpless and the poor.

VIRTUES

Human beings who have virtues and great qualities are dear to the Lord. The first among the virtues is *anapeksha* (desirelessness). Can a man who is endowed with body, mind, and intellect be completely free from desire? No. It is impossible. However, desirelessness can be achieved by human effort.

If mankind gives up ego, then desirelessness or *anapeksha* emerges. Mankind has to totally give up the feeling that, "I am doing," and, "I am experiencing," while performing all activities. *Anapeksha* is possible only when people perform all activities as offerings for the pleasure of God. The Lord is prepared to absorb all those in whose hearts this kind of *anapeksha yoga* arises, and He will ultimately take them to *moksha* (liberation). Such persons who have *anapeksha* are loved by God.

The second virtue, *suchi*, (cleanliness), should be external and internal. The body should be clean, the food we take, and the utensils in which the food is prepared, should all be clean and hygienic.

Many citizens, from scholars to common people, observe only this external, worldly cleanliness but not internal cleanliness. We have to keep our hearts pure, clean, and pious, then this will be real spiritual discipline. This kind of purity can be achieved through selfless service to society. Even the most impure thoughts like anger and hatred, can be cleansed through *nishkama karma* (selfless actions). We must feel that it is our responsibility to keep up this physical and mental cleanliness.

Daksha, the third virtue, is that which compels a person to have some specific goal in life. Everyone should determine to use his body and time for the good of human beings and for service. We should foster the idea that unity can be attained through social service. Unity will lead to Divinity which is most sacred. Therefore, we must sacrifice selfishness and undertake service. The ego will

be destroyed, and the experience of *Atma* (the indwelling Divinity) will be attained if we participate in selfless service. These thoughts and ideals are very dear to God.

The fourth virtue, *udaasina*, means that one should not mind the joy and sorrow, or the good and bad of life. When your inner voice accepts all these as the same, then you need not care about any other comment.

Conversely, if for example, you enter politics, you will always be worried about praise, pride, and fame. Such desires pollute your mind. However, one can transcend this kind of limitation through selfless service. *Udaasina* really means firm belief in goodness, as well as, ignoring anything that is bad or evil.

The next virtue that attracts our attention is *gathavyathaha*, which means that we should not worry about the past. No one can succeed with an agitated mind. Mental agitation can never do any good for anyone. We should not bother about future events either. Therefore, it is necessary for us to concentrate on the present. The prime reason for the problems and sorrows of the world is because we are thinking about the past, worrying about the future, and forgetting the present.

The sixth virtue is *sarvaarambha parithyaagi*, which means that we

should not perform anything with a sense of show or ostentation. Ostentation is a demonic quality as it causes one to develop hatred, attachment, and infatuation. Everyone has to act with humility and obedience. If you want to become a leader, you should develop the attitude of service with humility. A person who wants to serve should never aspire for power. Only the person who is a servant of society can be a good leader. Whatever work is given to you should be done in such a way that it earns the respect and admiration of all. Only then will the Sathya Sai Organization justify and sanctify its existence.

REASON FOR MALADIES

One may be rich and occupy a position of power, but he cannot drive away the agitation of the mind unless he serves society selflessly. Only then can peace be established. Joys and sorrows come and go like relatives coming to visit. We should not give importance to these things which are impermanent and transitory. We should care more for things which give us permanent bliss and satisfaction. Service expresses the Divinity hidden in man. It broadens one's heart, it destroys narrow-mindedness, and it gives delight. The evil qualities and tendencies in us can be driven away through service.



"He who craves for nothing, who is both internally and externally pure, is clever and impartial, and has risen above all distractions, who renounces the feeling of doership in all undertakings—that devotee is dear to Me."

—*Bhagavad Gita*, chapter 12
Published by Gita Press

The reason for all our maladies is that we are not practicing our activities with *trikarana shuddhi* (unity and purity of thought, word, and deed). Whatever we think, whatever we say, and whatever we do should be accomplished with unity and purity, only then will we enjoy natural peace. We do not have peace

because there is no unity of thought, word, and deed. The mind is responsible for bondage or liberation. When man improves himself, then society will improve, and when society improves, then the nation will improve.

—**Sathya Sai Baba**

SAI SPEAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE MIND

Excerpted from Divine Discourse, November 21, 1990

DHARMA IS THE SAME FOR ALL

Karma (action) is responsible for birth. Therefore, everyone is born out of some cause or other. *Dharma* (righteousness) is the fundamental goal of life based on *karma*. Today we consider *dharma* to be based on race, nationality, religion, caste, sex, etc., but that is not the correct interpretation. *Dharma* transcends place, time, and circumstances; it applies to human beings universally. All actions performed with unity of thought, word, and deed, and delivered with purity, promote peace and truth. Righteousness is not restricted to a particular group of people based on nationality, caste, or religion, but is common to all human beings. This is called *Sanathana Dharma* because it transcends the limitations of time and space.

VAGARIES OF MIND

Sweetness is the natural quality of *jaggery* (raw sugar). If it loses its sweetness, it becomes mud. Similarly, unless there is purity of thought,

word, and deed one cannot be considered a true human being. If man sacrifices his Divinity, he will be called a man only in form.

Vagaries of the mind are the reasons for not practicing righteousness. According to the scriptures, there are four defects in the mind: *bhrama* (delusion), *pramaada* (danger), *kaaranapathan* (weakness), and *vipralipsa* (envy).

Bhrama, the first defect, refers to a deluded state of mind in which, for example, a person might mistake a rope for a snake or vice-versa. In other words, he regards the unreal as real, and the real as unreal, the temporary as permanent, and the permanent as temporary. The *deha* (body) is not permanent, and the *Dehi* (Indweller) is permanent. Such delusions invariably lead to accidents or dangerous situations. This illustrates the second defect, *pramaada*. Certainly if you hold a snake, thinking that it is a rope, you are in for trouble!

The third deficiency, *kaaranapathan*, affects both the conscience and the sense organs. Our associations

with others will reflect good or bad. One gets transformed according to the company he keeps. Albert Einstein said, "Tell me your company, and I shall tell you what you are." Adi Sankara said, "Liberation can be possible only through good company."

The fourth deficiency of the mind, *vipralipsa*, is weakness caused by jealousy or envy. It is one of the worst qualities of mankind, because one cannot tolerate the prosperity or happiness of others. Instead, we should feel happy when others are happy. Do not give room for envy. The reason for envy is selfishness. All these defects leave their negative influence on the mind. That is why the mind gets polluted even though it is intrinsically good. The river, which originates with pure water, gets polluted while rushing from the high hills to the plains. The flow of the mind also starts out by being pure and sacred, but it gets polluted. Because of jealousy one wants others to suffer, consequently he suffers more. This state will lead to many sorrows.

MORE ON THE MIND

Everyone is familiar with the story of the *Mahabharatha*. The Kauravas were jealous of the Pandavas, therefore, the Kauravas were subjected to total destruction. Envy

breeds *krodha* (anger), which leads to the total loss of wealth, status, and friendship. You can never succeed if you practice spiritual discipline with such defects. You cannot perform good service with a polluted mind. Therefore, you have to destroy the impurities of the mind. This is possible only through selfless social service, and a feeling of unity.

When the mind attempts to discriminate between permanent and impermanent, it is called *buddhi*. The *buddhi* is extremely subtle. The senses are subtler than the body, the mind is subtler than the senses, *buddhi* is subtler than the mind, and *Atma* (indwelling God) is subtler than the *buddhi*. Because of its association with the *Atma*, *buddhi* is powerful. *Buddhi* is like a mirror. When ordinary glass is coated with mercury on one side, it becomes a mirror and reflects your image. Similarly, you cannot see the reflection of your inner self unless you apply love to the *buddhi*. Real human nature lies in knowing who you are. But today everyone wants to learn about the world outside, rather than about himself.

Patanjali in his *Yogasutra* says, "If you control your mind, you can go to any place and can have peace of mind." The intellectuals of today have no faith. Intellect without faith is useless.

Today people are full of delusions and do not have peace of mind. They should cultivate love and realize that the same *Atma* exists in everyone. Scientists conduct many experiments, but they do not realize that the same Divinity exists in all beings, though the names and forms are different.

The sage Vyasa's 18 *Puranas*, can be summed up in one sentence, "Help ever, hurt never." This is to be practiced by all of us to make life useful and meaningful. We must serve the helpless, chant the name of the Lord, realize *Atmatatwa* (Divine Essence). These will make life ideal.

—Sathya Sai Baba

REFLECTIONS

I dream of one day traveling
To see You, Sathya Sai,
To hear Your voice, and feel Your love
For all as You walk by.

Perhaps as bared feet approach
Homage I will impart,
And seek to find a footprint
After You depart.

Ah, what a disappointment
That here I daily plod,
To work with and for others
And search in all for God.

Yet, rather than seek You far away
It increasingly comes clear,
I need to live You in my life
And leave Your imprint here.

—Margaret Vespo

From, *Flowers at His Feet*,
Central Region Quarterly, Winter 1990

SAI SPEAKS ON EDUCATION

Excerpted from Divine Discourse, November 22, 1990

The chief purpose of all education is to provide a coherent picture of the universe and an integrated way of life. Education is the hidden treasure. It acts as a guide and a friend to people who go to foreign countries. It was fostered and adored by kings. It should inculcate humility, character, and loyalty as well as secular learning. The end of wisdom is freedom. The end of culture is perfection. The end of knowledge is love. The end of education is character.

VALUES & VIRTUES

The present system of education provides wealth, friendship, and strength to the students--but not virtue. The end of true education is the acquisition of character and not wealth. Education should formulate basic codes and train students to live in a virtuous manner. The present educational system has become a curse to mankind. Discipline has become rare; respect and honor have vanished. Acquisition of wealth through shortcuts, instead of knowledge and wisdom, has become the motto of the students.

The President of India, R. Venkataraman [who had spoken

earlier], described the spiritual and cultural glory of this country and the contributions of various sages and saints. He narrated the invaluable significance of the basic human values: Truth (*sathya*), righteousness (*dharma*), love (*prema*), peace (*shanti*), and nonviolence (*ahimsa*). Humanity will disappear in the absence of these values. In the absence of the five values—truth, righteousness, love, peace, and nonviolence—all the gains of virtuous acts are wasted, all charity and philanthropy are wasted.

Today students should acquire and consolidate the following virtues: sacrifice, humility, social service, friendship, discipline, politeness, love, divine truth, and nonviolence. These are the nine precious gems which a student has to proudly acquire. All education is a waste if it does not contribute to building good character and promote humaneness.

Education is not just for living. If it were, then animals, birds, and other species could not live without an education. Education should aim at ethical and spiritual transformation. It has two essential qualities: one, to explain and elaborate on matter, and two, to cause the personal-

ity of the individual to blossom. It is therefore a combination of matter and energy. Each student should become the embodiment of selfless, egoless, simple, pure love.

PROGRESS?

The present position of education is precarious. Parents are unable to control their children. National leaders are not able to inspire them. Teachers are not able to transmit the values of life. But, if all of them work with selfless, pure minds, then the maladies can be reduced.

Students should not join in political activities. They can enter politics after their education is completed to promote human wellbeing and preserve the integrity and security of the country. The present day student has no capacity to discriminate between good and bad.

Leaders feel that the growth of educational institutions represents progress. We do not need the quantity of educational facilities, but quality in education. Educational institutions should be autonomous and free from all types of interference.

The Grace Marks System (passing the student even if he has not learned the subject) is part of the educational system. The students should not be promoted when they get only

30%. The chief minister, education minister, head master, and others sanction their respective quotas of grace marks at various levels.

The educational system changes whenever the Education Minister is changed. The frequent changes in the system will ultimately ruin education. The system for visualizing good has vanished. *Dharma*, morality, purity, and ethical responsibility have disappeared. Today people will harm those who help them in a crisis. They blast those who give them food, and they tackle those who teach them. This is the kind of "progress" we have achieved in education.

The students should respect their elders and parents. They should give love, compassion, and respect. But today they are interested only in taking and not giving. It is foolish and treacherous to leave the parents and the motherland, who gave their best to you, and rush to foreign countries for the sake of earning great sums of money. The government should not issue passports to those who want to leave the country for earning money.

PEACE, LOVE & UNITY

Peace in the world can be attained only when peace at home is achieved. Today many meetings are being

arranged all over the world for peace. But how can it be achieved when one professes peace with an atom bomb in his hand?

You cannot stop loving your mother because she is ugly, and love someone else's mother because she is beautiful. The students should resolve to honor their motherland, parents, and their mother tongue. Burn the lamp of love inside the niche of your heart, and the birds of greed and envy will fly away unable to bear the light. Love makes you humble, it makes you bend and bow when you see greatness and glory. An unbending person is infected with egoism of the worst type.

Become aware of the God that resides in you. It is He who protects you, provides for you, and prevents you from falling prey to pernicious propensities. Don't imitate materialistic foreign cultures. Instead, recognize and revere your rich cultural heritage. Humility, obedience, and wisdom should be manifested in you; that is the purpose of real education. Discipline, devotion, and duty make your lives happy and complete. Reduce your desires and cultivate austerity. Every student must shape himself to be tolerant of all faiths, patient in the face of all odds, reverent toward the elderly, and humble

in spite of the insidious urge to demonstrate and display.

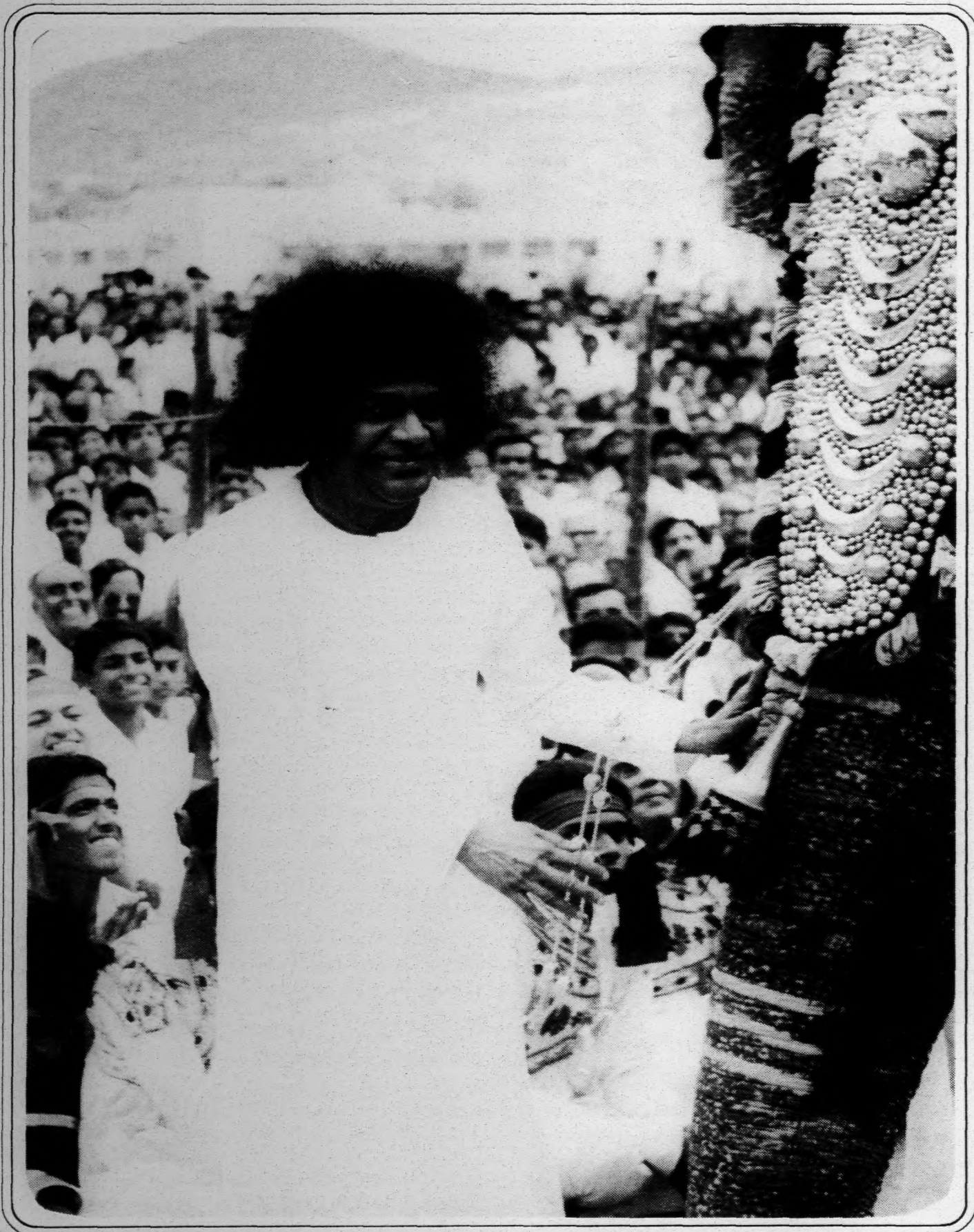
The union of body, mind, and *Atma* is essential, and this can be done only by the right type of spiritual education. The chief purpose of education, during any period of time, is the promotion and establishment of harmony, security, and world peace. Do good to others. Help ever and hurt never. All are one; be alike to everyone. We need purity of heart without words, not words without purity of heart.

-Sathya Sai Baba

WITH HIM

With Him, love springs
forth with ease.
With Him, our aims are
always to please.
With Him, the barren heart
begins to sprout.
With Him, we learn what is
within is without.
With Him, the world will once
again respond.
With Him, we'll be one with
the eternal *Aum*.

-Mark L. Banks
Tacoma Park, Maryland



Before His Birthday Discourse, Baba shared a few moments with His elephant, Sai Gita.

SAI SPEAKS ON THE MOTHER- LAND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Excerpted from the Divine Discourse, November 23, 1990

Give up all your differences of caste, color, and religion—unite yourselves as one. It is the virtues of a person that are important.

ALL CAN BE BHARATIYAS

Bharat (India) is related to all humanity. *Bha* means knowledge of Self. A person who seeks, masters, and realizes knowledge of Self is a Bharatiya. A person who is skillful in *sangrama* is a Bharatiya. *Sangrama* is that which attacks the demonic qualities in man with *Atma-sakthi* (indwelling godly energy). Any person belonging to any country can attain this. Bharat is the richest country. It is the cornerstone of ethical, spiritual, and righteous values. Many have been accustomed to describing our country as poor, but it is certainly not. If it is poor, why did the Moghuls and Europeans invade us? We have tremendous wealth, but we are not able to protect it. The primary reason for this unfortunate, shameful situation is the lack of unity among us. We achieved independence, but we have not attained unity.

Ghazni Mahmud, while invading Nagarakota in Punjab, took away 700 *maunds* (units of weight) of gold, and the gold room measuring 16 by 30 yards. We who are born in this great rich country, instead of feeling proud to be Bharatiyas, are subjected to perpetual sorrow and selfishness. The need of the hour is to sacrifice selfishness and to work with unity.

Bharat is the land of heroes who defeated the foreign invaders and won freedom and independence for the country. Bharat is a great land of music, literature, and fine arts. God has given us the honor to be born in this country, and it is our prime responsibility to protect and foster *dharma* (righteousness). Bharatiya culture is full of divinity and sacredness. This culture reached heights of glory from time immemorial. But it is a pity and a tragedy that Bharatiyas today do not make the slightest attempt to understand their great culture. Our heritage is full of divinity, character, courtesy, and purity. Bharat is the land of *Avatars*, and the birthplace of *rishis*, *yogis*, and saints.

Love your motherland, and work for the well-being of the country. We are accustomed to celebrating the birthdays of great men, but we do not practice their teachings. We must assimilate these teachings and implement them effectively, with love. Life without love is useless.

All types of education are a waste unless accompanied by virtue. All positions of power, administration, and wealth are wasteful and meaningless unless one has a broad mind and purity of heart. If a person wants to eat food, he must first be hungry. If he wants to drink water, he must first be thirsty. If he wants to experience *ananda* (bliss), he must first have joy. Nothing happens in this world without a reason.

UNITY, UNITY, UNITY

Many *lakhs* (hundreds of thousands) of people belonging to various cultures, customs, life styles, and social status throughout the world, have come to this tiny hamlet of Puttaparthi at the expense of much discomfort and inconvenience. They are living and moving here as one. The secret of this unity is Divine Love which they cannot get easily at any other place. I have not sent invitations to any one. All have come only because of their inimitable love. Here they experience purity and enlightenment with Divine Love.

All rituals are a waste unless you promote goodness. The glory of Puttaparthi is expanding its spiritual serenity and divine excellence, which is due to the pure will and thoughts of Sai. Therefore, promote good thoughts. All of those who come—from the richest to the poorest, from the topmost official to the ordinary citizen—should observe the life here as a part of their spiritual discipline. Work hard and enjoy. Work is worship. Those assembled here are a symbol of unity in diversity. No act becomes successful unless one makes a serious attempt to put forth effort.

FREE EDUCATION & MEDICAL CARE

Foreigners describe India as poor. Bharat is not a backward country. Our country has a rich cultural heritage and is rich in potential. The government should declare free education, and free medicine to all, irrespective of caste, property, or creed. The president of India, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, and the governor of Andhra Pradesh should all think seriously about this and come out with a positive declaration of free education for all. Sri Sathya Sai Institutions provide free education for all, from kindergarten to post-graduate degrees, irrespective of caste, property, or creed.

We are planning to start a hospital for advanced medical treatment here. The foundation stone has been laid, and the hospital will be inaugurated on November 22, 1991. Higher education and superior medical care are equally important. All spiritual organizations should come forward to give free education for everyone. There are temples that earn a great deal of money annually. They should declare free education for all.

If wealthy people need surgery, such as heart by-pass or kidney transplant, they can go to foreign countries for medical help. How can a poor man afford this when he suffers from similarly serious maladies? The Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medicine Hospital is an answer and a boon to the poor.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The developments during these past 50 years [this year was the 50th, or the Golden Jubilee of the Advent of the *Avatar*] by a single being is an historical record. No other *Avatar* has achieved so much during His time. The educational complex, Poor-nachandra Auditorium, universities, airport, and proposed hospital are living examples. This is due to the *sankalpa* (divine will) of Sathya Sai Baba. I am eternally happy, I have no self-interest except to distribute love to you.

Sanctify your life by chanting the name of the Lord, and spend your entire life with love.

— Sathya Sai Baba



The evening of November 23, Baba's Birthday, He sits in the *jhoola* or swing. This is symbolic of God swinging His devotee into a state of forgetfulness of the material world.

Dharma Vahini, chapter X

THE BIGGEST MIRACLE

Valedictory Discourse, November 24, 1990

If you have the interests of society at heart, and have given up selfishness, you should then conduct yourself in such a way that only good accrues to the Sai Organizations and to society. Conduct yourself with such skill that you do not hurt others, and that you do not get hurt by others.

HELP, DON'T HURT

Protect the value of your words by not breaking your promises. Otherwise your words will lose their validity. Do not forget this. Activities which do good for others will have to be taken up. If not, at least desist from hurting others. You should join good company, cultivate virtues, and serve society. Through those pursuits, you can get liberation and freedom from the fruits of action. Have compassion, and transform yourself into *Pashupathi* (the Lord Himself) instead of behaving like a *pashu* (animal).

One who has no compassion is a demon. Give up ego and criticizing others. These are the worst sins. Instead, always see God as the Indweller in your heart, and in all human beings. Develop this feeling. Only then will all Sai Organizations justify and sanctify their existence.

DIVINE LOVE

You can get real peace and joy in total and complete love. If there is no love, there is no welfare, no peace, and no security. This is the word of Sai, which is the path of truth. Love is a ceaseless flow of divine effulgence. *Rishis* called this love *Atma* (the indwelling Divinity). *Atma* is love, and it shines in all hearts. Love, *Atma*, and heart are all synonymous with God. Such pure love has no differences or distinctions between "mine" and "thine." It is extremely selfless. That is why *Vedanta* describes human beings as *premaswarupa* (embodiments of love). Just as the mariner's compass always indicates north, whichever way it is positioned, so, too, love always directs itself toward God. Every person should make an effort to understand true love. Love alone equals love. Love is the result of love. Love is the taste for love. There is nothing better in the world than love. It is impossible to compare it to anything else. There is no language or poetry which can adequately describe love.

Prema (love) and *anuraaga* (affection) are the same. When affection is directed toward worldly things, it gets polluted. Because of this pollu-

tion, man experiences joy and sorrow. When you direct love toward God, it becomes pure, permanent, true, unselfish, beyond time and space, and Divine. This is described as transcending all virtues.

The scriptures describe nectar as being very sweet, but love is greater and sweeter than nectar. Nectar is insipid and tasteless when compared to love. Such pure, sacred love cannot be understood by ordinary human beings. We should conduct all our activities with love.

HUMAN LOVE

Usually human love is turned toward worldly pursuits. It is like the goldsmith who—while making jewelry out of pure gold—adds copper or silver, thereby diminishing the value of the gold. Similarly, pure love is diluted when it is mixed with worldly pursuits. However, if you want to transform activities into pure love, you can do so through service. It is only when one engages in selfless service that love can be purified.

Man is dying a miserable death without understanding the significance of pure love. When a man is in water up to his neck, he can speak. When he is totally under water, he cannot utter a word. People try to describe love only when they are not completely drenched in it. But when

a person is totally immersed in love, he cannot speak of it.

How can you describe sacred Divinity in words? How can you see such Divinity? There is a way. God shows Himself to some people but not to others. In spite of all their spiritual discipline they do not have a vision of God. What is the reason for this? Take the example of different types of *japamalas* (prayer beads) such as rudraksha berries, coral, tulsi seeds, etc. The thread which is holding the beads in position cannot be seen. But, in the case of crystal prayer beads, the thread can clearly be seen. In everyone's heart there is this thread of *Brahman* (the Universal Absolute) which is visible only in a heart full of pure love, and can be compared to the crystal beads. So you see, it is very difficult to describe sacred Divinity or pure Love.

EXAMPLES

Kabir, in one of his songs, said, "How can I understand or recognize You, Krishna, who is dwelling in the minutest atom, and also in the mightiest of things, and who is bigger than the biggest mountain?" He is in everything, at all times, in the subtlest form. He is the smallest of the small and the biggest of the big. Kabir also sang, "Rama, I cannot do *japa* (repeating the Name), *tapa* (penance), *dhyana* (meditation), and other forms

of worship, as I do not know the secret subtleties and procedures of doing these spiritual exercises. I do not have satisfaction in doing them. I have only one spiritual exercise. It is *prema* (love), the practice of love. Please give me the capacity to reach You only through love. The path of love alone is the path for me. I cannot tread any other path."

You should serve others with love, and experience *Atmananda* (Divine Bliss). When you enter society with love, to serve with love, the universe becomes your home.

BECOME A SERVANT

From ancient times, Bharat (India) has exemplified the path of service and love. This is not only true for Bharatiyas (the people of India), but for all of humanity.

Babar, the Moghul emperor, had a son, Humayun. When the latter became the emperor, Babar wrote a letter to him saying, "Bharat is the birthplace for the worship of God. It is the holy land which shelters many religions. None can adequately describe the greatness of Bharat's culture. From ancient times the people have fostered this culture with great care and precision, without deviating from the path of righteousness. Their broad-mindedness is not found in any other religion. You are ex-

tremely fortunate to become an emperor of such a great country. You should show your gratitude to God, who has conferred this great boon on you. You should not go against, or harm any place of worship, or the Indian culture." Babar continued, "Do your duty impartially. When you have problems, you should call the great scholars, consult with them, and abide by the decisions and advice they give. If you do not follow this particular path, your life will be ruined."

Thus Babar explained, in the letter to his son, that Indian culture represents unity of religions. He also added that sacrifice, service, right conduct, and love are the four limbs of this culture.

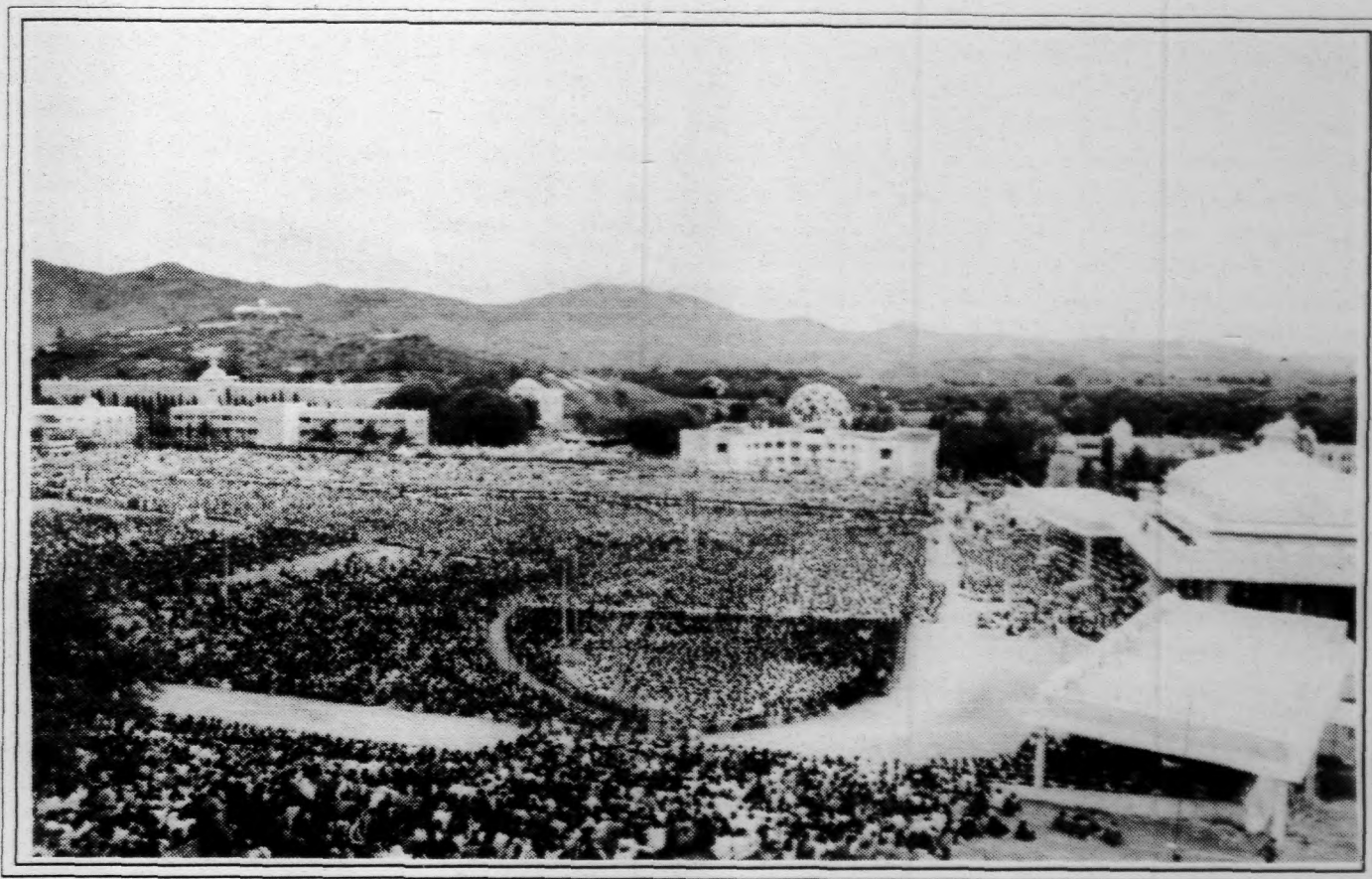
In this sacred Bharat, service occupies prime importance, but because there is a dearth of selfless workers, it has come to peril. There is a need for increasing the number of workers. Only when one has the attitude of a servant, can one become a leader. Faith in such an attitude is essential for developing leaders.

SEVA ORGANIZATIONS

In the Sathya Sai Seva Organizations, there should be no differences of high or low. All people should participate in service. Human life is given only for service. Whatever strength, power, authority, high

position, or education you may have acquired, these things do not assure you of getting pleasure and joy from giving service. But, whenever you give service, remember that you are serving God. Then there will be joy.

never boasted of his strength, knowledge, or other accomplishments. He only answered politely, saying, "I am the servant of Rama." From this you can learn how great it is to be a servant of the Lord.



Hillview Stadium was peopled with devotees as far as the eye could see.

A PARABLE

Hanuman was noted for being virtuous, as well as for his inexhaustible physical strength, and mastery of knowledge. When he entered Ashoka Vana (the place where Ravana had held Sita captive), the demons asked him who he was. He

Krishna, who had all the powers in all the worlds and was an incarnation of God, offered Himself as charioteer for Arjuna, a human being. This shows that, from time immemorial, the Lord has been fond of service and of being a servant.

CHILDREN'S CORNER:

FAUNA DHARMA

Lessons in Right Conduct from our animal friends



The saving habit: In the spring twilight, a chipmunk uncurls in her leafy nest, and begins to wash herself. At daybreak, she leaves her burrow and begins her daily business of food gathering. Like all chipmunks, she has a strong habit of saving and is single-minded in her gathering of seeds and nuts for winter storage, stuffing a remarkable amount of food in her cheek pouches. She is a hard worker, making trips from trees and plants almost continually during the entire day. In the afternoon she pauses for a short nap on a sunny rock.

The habit of saving has to be developed by everyone early in childhood because it has a great influence on our personality and attitude toward life. Saving can be done in three ways: physical, mental, and spiritual. Physically, we can save food, money and natural resources. Mentally, the habit of saving turns our mental energies inward, and we learn to curb desire and develop self-control. Spiritually, we must save and foster desires for uplifting activities: filial duties, praying, devotional singing, and attending worship services. If we carefully cultivate saving habits at every level we can progress far on our spiritual path.

Sai Baba has instructed us to save in four categories: time, energy, money and food. Can you give some examples of how we can save in these four areas? How can you help others with the money and food you save? What are natural resources and how can you save them?

—Valerie Eitzen

Time wasted is life wasted. —Sathya Sai Baba

EXPANSION OF THE SRI SATHYA SAI ORGANIZATIONS

Expansion of Understanding & Expansion of Participation

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has lent His name to our organizations in order to strengthen our resolve to gain enlightenment by leading a genuine spiritual life. We must incorporate His teachings and the examples of His actions into every aspect of our lives. The Sri Sathya Sai Organizations provide us with the opportunity to work together and serve together. At the Fifth World Conference, Bhagavan Baba said, *"Let our goal be to serve society. We are born to serve. We are all servants. There is no master. Only the Lord is master."*

As a result of the Fifth World Conference, a worldwide reorganization is taking place. The purpose of the reorganization is to increase the participation of all Sai devotees in organizational affairs, to enable the Sai Organizations to serve their respective societies more effectively, and to establish uniformity in the goals, structure, administration, and programs of the Sri Sathya Sai Organizations in all countries. In order to accomplish these goals it is necessary to deepen our understanding of the nature of this spiritual organization, and to enable all devotees to participate and be represented in their organization.

The following changes are taking place:

1. The number of international regions has been expanded to 10 with a commensurate increase in the number of central coordinators. Dr. Michael Goldstein has been appointed Deputy International Chairman.
2. All Sathya Sai Baba Centers, Coordinating Committees, and Central Councils will have a president, vice president, and coordinators of devotion, education, and service.
3. The Sri Sathya Sai Coordinating Committees will be comprised of all center presidents in that region, and other outstanding Sai devotees who have demonstrated a great capacity to serve their fellow devotees and their respective societies.

4. The Sri Sathya Sai Central Councils will be comprised of all of the presidents of the Coordinating Committees in the country or region and other outstanding Sai devotees.

5. In the USA, Doctors Michael Goldstein and William Harvey will serve as central coordinators. They will be working with the current regional directors to convene regional meetings of all Sai devotees in each region in order to establish the regional coordinating committees and then the central council of the USA. All Sai devotees, including those who are not center members are invited to attend and participate in these meetings.

6. All Sathya Sai Baba Centers are requested to select a president, vice president, and coordinators of devotion, education, and service for a two-year term. Current officers may serve an additional term. After selecting these new officers, the centers should consider their choice for the officers of the coordinating committee of their region, keeping in mind that the president of their center will be a member of that committee. The officers of the committee are not required to be center presidents. In this same manner, the presidents of the coordinating committees of each region and other outstanding devotees will comprise the Central Council of USA and will select their officers. The selection of officers of the coordinating committees and central councils will be made in concert with the central coordinators.

The above process and changes are being implemented in Sai Organizations all over the world. Their sole aim is to give more opportunities to all Sai devotees to actively participate in their own Sai Organizations. These changes have been discussed with Dr. John Hislop, who has worked tirelessly for so many years to maintain the purity of the American Sai Organization. Dr. Hislop will be conferring with Bhagavan Baba during his forthcoming trip to India regarding his new assignments. He has endorsed the changes described in this announcement. He will always be a source of wisdom and knowledge for all Sai devotees.

At the Fifth World Conference, Bhagavan Baba said, *"People who have gone away from this organization are the unfortunate ones. You should not become unfortunate ones. Come what may, do not give up this organization. Consider this organization as your life breath. This is real service."* Let us take these words to heart. Let us make the Sri Sathya Sai Organization a genuine instrument of His Divine Will!

**—Michael Goldstein, M.D.
—William Harvey, Ph.D.**

DATES TO REMEMBER IN 1991:

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, February 12, Mahashivarathri, is observed during the new moon and symbolizes a renaissance and rededication of spiritual life.

Sunday, March 17, Yugadi, Lunar New Year.

Sunday, March 24, Sri Rama Navami, the day to honor the birth of the *Avatar*, Rama.

Monday, May 6, Easwaramma Day, to pay homage to the memory of the mother of Sathya Sai Baba.

***Sunday, July 21, Handicapped Day**, for Sai devotees in the United States to give service, and to remind them that the less fortunate need a helping hand all year long.

Friday, July 26, Guru Poornima Day, a day set aside for the adoration of the *guru* or spiritual preceptor.

Monday, September 2, Sri Krishna Jayanti, gives recognition of the birth of the *Avatar* Krishna.

Friday, September 13, Ganesha Chaturthi, honors Lord Ganesha, who is the remover of all obstacles and ignorance.

***Sunday, September 22, Blood Donation Day**, to give blood at your local hospital, Red Cross, or blood bank.

Friday, October 18, Dasara or Vijaya Dasami, the festival which is dedicated to the Divine Mother in her various aspects.

Monday, November 5, Deepavali or Diwali, the Festival of Lights, commemorating the victory of righteousness over wicked forces.

***Saturday and Sunday, November 16-17, Akhanda Bhajan**, a continuous 24-hours of devotional singing dedicated to world peace and done in Sai Centers around the world. It begins on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Saturday, November 23, the 66th Birthday of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Monday, December 2, Hannukah, the beginning of the Jewish holy days, proclaiming victory over the oppressor.

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

*To be confirmed later

—Central Office of
Sri Sathya Sai Organizations
Prasanthi Nilayam, India

YOU ARE MY OWN

All mankind is an aspect of God. You are not just a reflection of nature, and a conglomeration of the five elements. You are not just a reflection of worldly aspects. You are My own aspect which does not perish at all. This faith should be instilled in the hearts of all, only then will you be able to do service without a flaw.

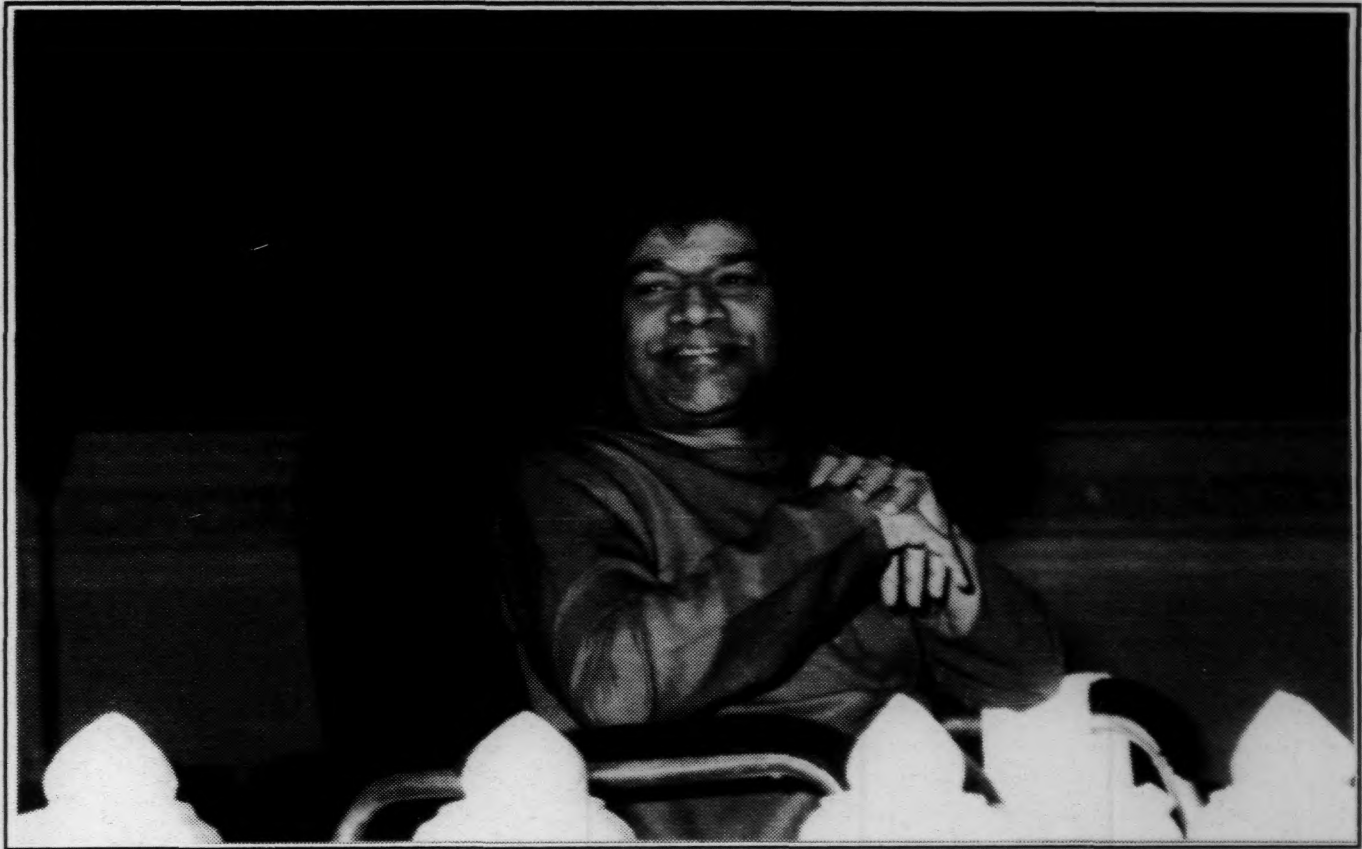
Embodiments of Divine Love, human life is not ordinary. It is very rare to be born as a human being, hence, human birth is very precious. But we are selling this human life, which is as precious as gems, for a few bags of charcoal. We have to realize that purity of mind is the basis of truth. Without consciousness (*chita*) and purity of heart (*shuddhi*), whatever prayers, worship, or service, that are offered, will not be of any use. They are a waste. Even if a person prays to a *crore* (ten million) of gods, he is not going to get liberation or get rid of his worries. But, if one can destroy the ego, there is no need to seek liberation, as he is liberated. Ego is nothing but considering yourself to be the body. The body is just an instrument. You are not the body (*deha*), you are the Indweller (*Dehi*). From ancient times, *Vedanta* has expounded this truth.

NON-DUALISM

Vedanta explains *Advaita* (non-dualism) and *Visishtadvaita* (qualified non-dualism). There is not much difference between the two. *Pandits* have been confusing people by giving wrong interpretations. *Advaita* means realizing that the indwelling God is the same in all. Each one has to understand this truth. You have to recognize the subtle difference between *Advaita* and *Visishtadvaita*. *Visishtadvaita* uses the following analogy: Just because the driver sits in the car and drives, does the driver become the car? The *Dehi* (the Indweller) is driving, while the *deha* (the body, outside shell), in this case, is the car. The driver is not the car. He remains distinctly separate from the car.

Sankara has expounded *Advaita*, using the following analogy: The juice in sugarcane is sweet, no matter how many knots and bends there are in the cane. The body is like the sugarcane. The names and forms, likes and dislikes, disappointments and aspirations may be different, like the knots and bends in the sugarcane, but the sweet juice, the divine essence, is common to all people.

Ramanuja, who expounded *Visishtadvaita*, went a step further and said that if this juice becomes sugar,



Sathya Sai Baba observing a performance given by the students.

and is mixed with flour, it can be made into various kinds of sweets. *Advaita* says God is *Rasaswaroopa*, the essence or juice. Ramanuja says that making the sugarcane juice into sugar, which can then be used for preparing different types of sweets, is a better method of putting it to proper use.

The difference between the two is that the essence or *Atma*, the juice, is *Advaita* or non-dualism. But when it is transformed into sugar, and mixed with other things, it becomes *Visishtadvaita* or qualified non-dualism. What is meant by sugar? *Prema* (love) is the sugar. *Prema* is love, love, love.

MAN'S LOVE

Prema to your spouse is one type of love and is called *moha*. When it is between mother and child, it is *vatsalya*. When it is for objects, it is called *ichha*. When it is directed toward relatives and friends, it becomes *anuraaga* (affection, attachment). And love toward God is *bhakti* (devotion). Therefore, *bhakti* is pure *Advaitic* essence. When we realize this basic, supreme truth, there will be no room for doubts.

YOGA AS LOVE

Love has also taken the form of *yoga* (unity), and in fact, the prin-

ciple of *pranayama* (a breathing exercise) is love. This has also taken the form of *Hamsa Gayatri*. What is *Hamsa Gayatri*? When you inhale and exhale you say "*Soham*." Inhaling with the *So*, and exhaling with the *Ham*. This breathing exercise is called *Hamsa Gayatri*. Even in *Soham* there is *Dwaita* (duality). When you breathe in silently, you say, "*So*." sometimes the *S* sound goes away, and only the *O* remains. Similarly, when exhaling *Ham*, the *Ha* sound goes away, and only *M* remains. Therefore, just the *Om* remains. This is called *kumbhaka*.

While in the waking stage, we are constantly breathing *Soham*, *Soham*. In the deep sleep stage, however, this does not happen at all. And even while people are snoring, we can hear *Oh Ham*, *Oh Ham*. [Swami demonstrated the *Oh Ham* sound, and how it is distorted while a person is snoring. The crowd was delighted and roared with laughter]. People are always breathing, and thus, doing this *pranayama* exercise. But this is not the real *pranayama*. True *pranayama* is taking in the good and giving up the bad. Taking in the good things is *puraka*, giving up the bad things is *rechaka*, and retaining the good things is *kumbhaka*. This is the real method of *Vedic pranayama*. But today none seems to care for these sacred things, nor do they understand them. People consider bodily

pranayama to be true. But what is this physical body?

BODY AND MIND

Activities performed by the body cannot take you to Divinity as they are not associated with the mind. When you combine the mind with the body, it becomes *yoga*, unity. In the *Bhagavad Gita*, it says that, using the body for service to society is true *yoga*. Lord Krishna said, "You have the right to work." So do work. There is no greater pleasure than working for the good of society. When you involve the body and the mind together, service becomes sacred and effective. All spiritual exercises which do not combine the body with the mind, will be useless.

The body is not permanent, it is made up of the five elements, and is bound to perish. The Indweller (*Dehi*) is permanent. There is nothing like birth or death for the Indweller. The Indweller is God, Himself. We have to recognize the principle of the Indwelling God in every human being. Whomsoever you serve, you are serving God. Through such service your mind becomes pure, and the body gets sanctified. Without purity of mind there is no use in taking up any service work.

The body is a dirty container of impure things. It is a basket of dis-

eases. It cannot help you to attain liberation. Do not believe that this body is going to be permanent. Take shelter at the lotus feet of the Lord.

Develop the correct attitude of mind, and make the mind experience itself fully. The mind is basically pure. [Baba displayed His handkerchief and proceeded with the discourse]. This cloth is white. It becomes soiled with use. You give it to the laundryman, and he returns it to you looking clean and white. He did not color it white, but only removed the dirt, which restored it to its original color. Similarly, the mind is basically pure. When the mind is diverted to worldly life, it acquires the nature of the world and becomes soiled. If you purify it through love, it can get back its original purity.

LOVE AND UNITY

Embodiments of Divine Love, cultivate love through love. The *gopis* prayed to Lord Krishna, "Oh Lord Krishna, this body does not have love. Shower on this body the rain of love. Let the river of love flow. Let the waters of love be made available. Let the seeds of love be sown. Let the trees of love be grown. Let the fruits of love be reaped." A body without *prema*, love, is of no use. You must sow the seeds, then the tree of love will grow and yield the fruit of grace.

Unity in diversity can be achieved only through love. Love can bind all people. Such sacred love cannot be had anywhere else in the world except here, at Prasanthi Nilayam. There are so many millions of eyes. There may be larger assemblies elsewhere, but their gaze will be diverted in the wrong directions. Here the old and young, ladies and men, one and all, focus only on Sai. What is the reason for this? Love alone. It is because of Divine Love.

There are so many inconveniences during these vast gatherings here. Cleaning the environment of Prasanthi Nilayam, providing security and peace for the people inside the Nilayam, all these have been achieved only through love. We have been able to achieve victory and success only through love. It is only love which makes our hearts peaceful. If our hearts are full of love and peace, the world will be at peace.

NATURE COOPERATES

Here is a small example to illustrate a point. Yesterday, by 7:30 in the morning, all the clouds had gathered overhead. Instead of causing a downpour, the clouds provided a shelter from the sun. This gave peace and joy to the people who sat as though they were in air-conditioned comfort. If we have good feelings and

love, then, even nature will cooperate with us. The *Ramayana* provides an example of this. Sita, the daughter of Mother Earth, was abducted by Ravana. Rama had to search for her, and the monkeys helped him. All of nature: birds, beasts, and trees came to his aid, and Sita was rescued. As Sai is *Premaswarupa* (the Embodiment of Love), all nature has cooperated with Him too. Nature has not interfered with our programs and work, instead, it has given us shelter. Even today, shelter is provided by the clouds. There are many subtle things about the Divine ways that cannot be easily understood.

CONCLUSION

The *Vedas* declare, "Let us grow together. Let us live together. Let us live in a friendly way without misunderstandings and quarrels. Let us come together to grow in friendship, love, and strength."

We can achieve much through a united effort. If we can live together in unison, how happy we can be! Unity is strength. Practicing this will give you bliss. If you want to be united, you have to develop the feeling of *ekatwa* (oneness), and a feeling of *ekatma* (one *Atma*).

Embodiments of the Divine *Atma*, today our meetings have come to a

close. It is not enough to have sacred feelings only when you are at Prasanthi Nilayam. Wherever you go, these sacred feelings should be with you, like your own shadow.

You should not be satisfied with just undertaking service. You should ask your friends and relatives to join in. Nobody should be afraid or ashamed of undertaking service. Have firm faith that your service is sacred and Divine. Do not be attached to thinking, "My friends will laugh at me when they see me sweeping the roads." Do not feel ashamed of whatever service you have to do for others, or under whatever circumstances you have to do it.

It is only in the Sathya Sai Organizations that there are *lakhs* (hundreds of thousands) of such good, selfless workers. Because of the workers, we have been able to have these vast meetings.

There are many people who use their intelligence to give great speeches. But, people who practice as well as preach are hard to find. There is a way to correct this situation by saying, "Whatever I tell, I do it. Whatever I do, I tell it." These students, here, know this very well. I love and I ask you to love. My greatest property is Love.

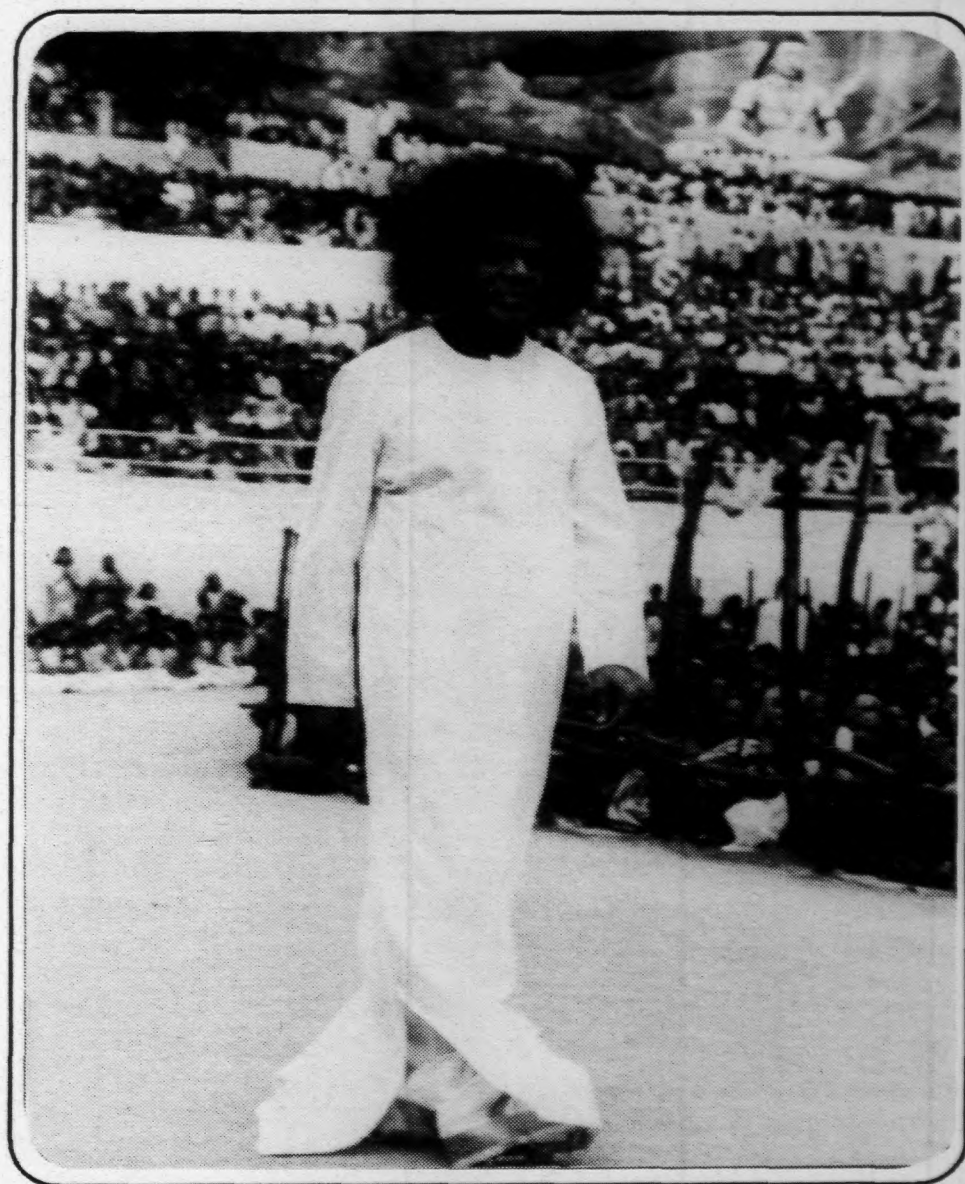
People go on describing the greatness of my various miracles. But my

biggest miracle is my Love. All of you should participate in this Love.

Embodiments of the Divine *Atma*, all of you should take a vow to continue developing this Service Organization. Take all people into the fold. Consider everyone as a child of God. Whomsoever you serve, think that you are serving your own brothers and sisters. Only then will God manifest in you. You will definitely get a vision of God. There is no doubt that

you will experience great things in a short time. People who have gone away from this organization are the unfortunate ones. Don't become an unfortunate one. Come what may, do not give up this Service Organization. Consider it as your very life's breath, and do this with real determination. This is what I desire. Sai's love will always be with you, wherever you are, and whatever you may be doing.

-Sathya Sai Baba



Baba giving *darshan* at Hillview Stadium

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All devotees are cautioned against being misled.

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