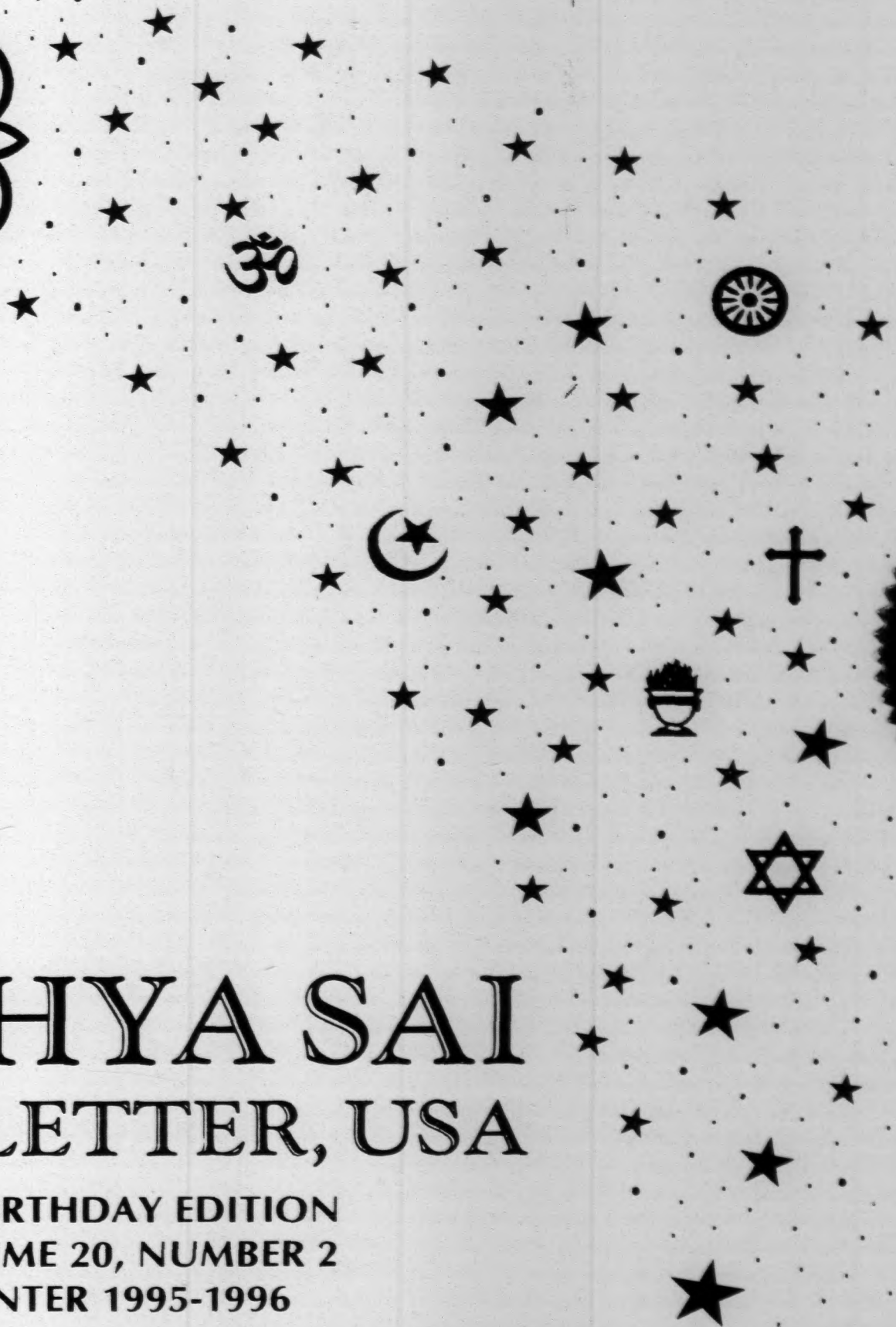




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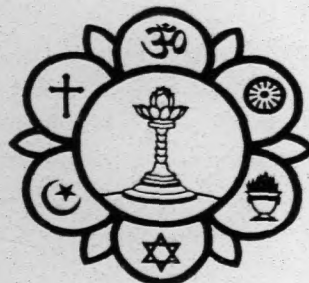
Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA

70th Birthday Edition

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

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***The Sarva Dharma symbol, the logo of the Sri Sathya Sai Organization,
depicts the unity of all religions.***



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Sai's Message

The Lord in Human Form



When God comes in human form, it is very difficult to see Him as the Lord. One sees that body, then one's own body, and one cannot but relate the two by putting that body at the same level as oneself. But if the Lord came in all His majesty, people would be afraid and would have no opportunity to know and love the Lord. People could not withstand the Lord in superhuman form. It is only when the Lord comes in a human body that people are able to approach Him and know Him even a little bit. But one should not make the mistake of thinking that is all there is to the Lord. It is the same as if one makes the mistake of thinking that an airplane is a ground machine because, after landing, one sees it on the ground. In like fashion, although the Lord has made a landing here on earth, so to speak, He is not limited by His human form.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Excerpted from, *Conversations with Sathya Sai Baba*
by John H. Hislop, Ed.D.

My Interview with Swami

The morning was cool and fresh. The sky was a deep azure blue and clear for miles. In the distance, one could hear the serenading of crickets and further still, one could hear the chirping of birds in unison. Occasionally, there was a squawking sound of what could have been a monkey or a half-hearted rooster. This was the day I was to have my interview with Swami.

Up at dawn, I sat on the firm Prasanthi ground cleansing my mind, thoughts and spirit. Purging myself of bad thoughts, repenting for my past bad actions—at least the ones in this life that I could remember. I felt myself move out of the body. I lost identification with the gross world. I was somehow part of a larger, more pervasive consciousness. I was one with the earth, the sky, the trees, the animals, the other devotees, the entire cosmos. The Creator of the world was going to look through me and see my past good and bad deeds. Immediately everything was prioritized in my life—the houses, cars, vacations, investments, companies, associates, friends, problems—trivialities were at once put into a sharp, crystal clear focus. There was one goal. The other 154 that I had once written down did not even register. The vast, incomprehensible splendor of the universe was beckoning to me. He was so close, warning me to wake up from the dream. Petty worries and dilemmas were meaningless. I felt free, as

if I had suddenly and unequivocally let go of unneeded baggage.

I knew what He expected of me. There has never been any ambiguity in Swami's teaching: Eat pure (*sathwic*) food, put a ceiling on desires, provide selfless service to those in need and expect nothing in return, maintain consistency in thought, word and deed, lose the ego, understand that you are not the doer. See His name, form and presence in every living and nonliving being—above all—love, love, love.

Why was it so hard for me to live up to these principles? Then, I remembered something I had said repeatedly to the staff of my small, start-up company, "It's a question of priority, because the priority item will always get done!"

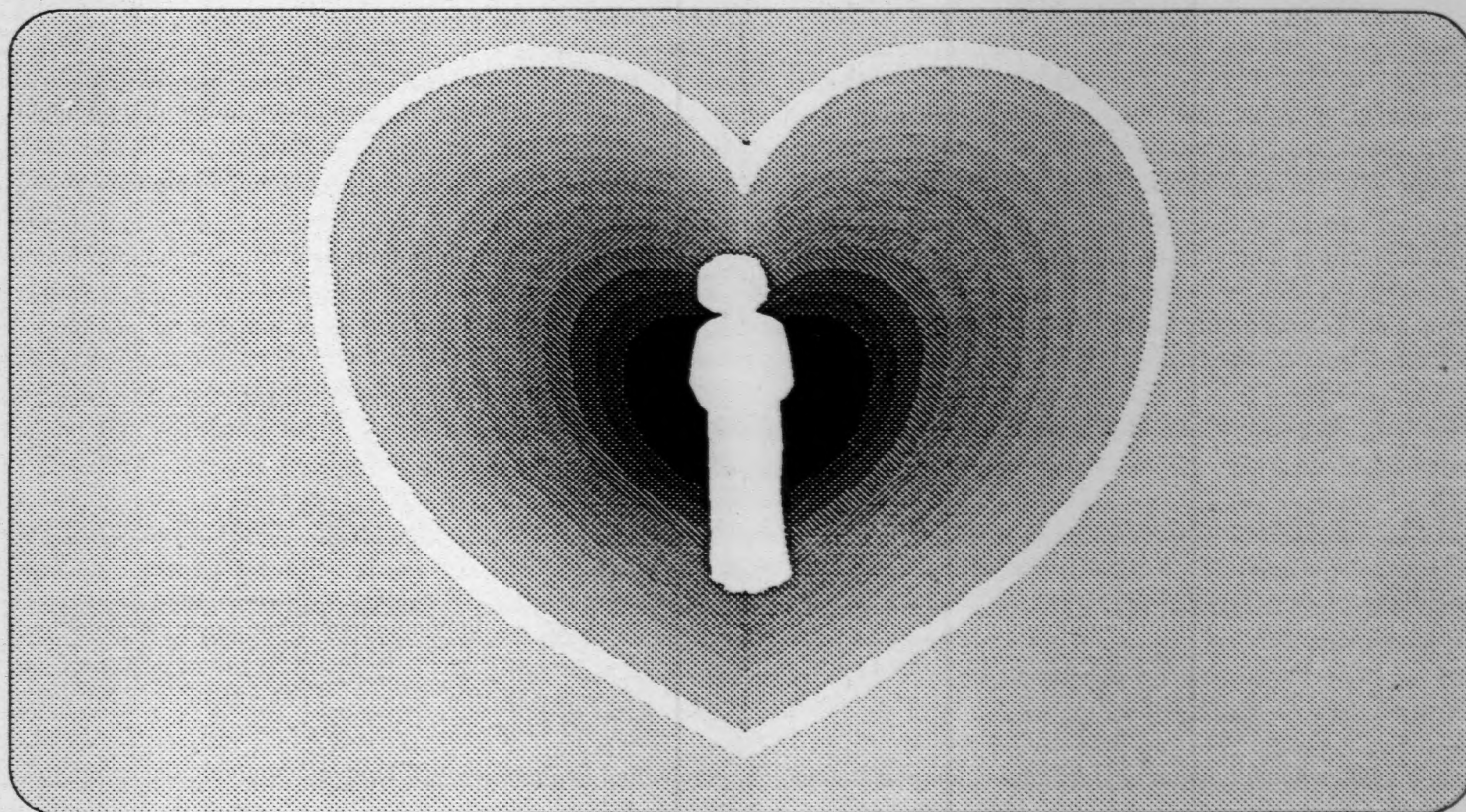
All of a sudden it was clear. It wasn't a lack of time, it was a lack of direction! I was doing what was clearly the most important item for me to be doing in this or any other lifetime, in my spare time. Clarity of thought set in, I felt great about my new discovery.

I awoke to find myself in sunny Northern California, miles and centuries from Puttaparthi. I thought to myself, well that's what could have happened if I had been chosen to have an interview with Swami. That's when it hit me. I am going to have an interview with Swami tomorrow, and everyday, for the rest of my life.

—Kannan Ayyar
Northern California

Cultivate a nearness to me in the heart, and you will be rewarded. Then, you too will acquire supreme love. This is a great chance.

—Sathya Sai Baba
Divine Discourse, 1968



human community in the path of peace. At the present time, strife and discord have robbed peace and unity from the family, the schools, the community, the society, the villages, the cities and the state. The arrival of the Lord is also anxiously awaited by saints and sages. *sadhus* (spiritual aspirants) prayed, and I have come.

My main tasks are the fostering of the *Vedas* and the fostering of devotees. Your virtue, your self-control, your detachment, your faith, your steadfastness—these are the signs by which people know of my glory. You can lay claim to being a devotee only when you have placed yourself in my hands fully and completely, with no trace of ego. You can enjoy the bliss through the experience that the Avatar confers. The Avatar behaves in a human way, so that people can feel kinship and aspire to their

to kill one or more individuals who could be identified as enemies of the righteous (*dharmic*) way of life, and thus restore the practice of virtue. But now there is no one who is fully good, so who deserves the protection of God? All are tainted by wickedness, so who will survive if the Avatar decides to uproot [wickedness]? Therefore, I have come to correct the intelligence (*buddhi*) by various means. I have to counsel, help, command, condemn, stand by as a friend and well-wisher to all, so that they may give up evil propensities and recognizing the straight path, tread it and reach the goal. I have to reveal to people the meanings of the *Vedas*, the *Sastras* and other spiritual texts which lay down the norms.

If you accept me and say, "Yes," I too respond and say, "Yes. Yes. Yes." If you deny me and say, "No," I also say, "No." Come—examine, experience, have

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—Sathya Sai Baba
Divine Discourse, 1968

Sai's Message

His Mission, His Task

For many, this has been one of the most important discourses given by Sathya Sai Baba; it has had a profound effect on countless followers, giving them spiritual strength and sustenance. This message continues to be as important today as it was when Baba first delivered it in 1968.

To commemorate the 70th birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, we offer these inspiring words to our readers.

—Editor

His Main Task

For the protection of the virtuous, for the destruction of evil-doers, and for establishing righteousness on a firm footing, I incarnate from age to age. Whenever disharmony overwhelms the world, the Lord will incarnate in human form to establish the modes of earning *prasanthi* or peace, and to reeducate the human community in the path of peace. At the present time, strife and discord have robbed peace and unity from the family, the schools, the community, the society, the villages, the cities and the state. The arrival of the Lord is also anxiously awaited by saints and sages. *sadhus* (spiritual aspirants) prayed, and I have come.

My main tasks are the fostering of the *Vedas* and the fostering of devotees. Your virtue, your self-control, your detachment, your faith, your steadfastness—these are the signs by which people know of my glory. You can lay claim to being a devotee only when you have placed yourself in my hands fully and completely, with no trace of ego. You can enjoy the bliss through the experience that the Avatar confers. The Avatar behaves in a human way, so that people can feel kinship and aspire to their

super-human heights, so that people can rise to reach the heights, and through that aspiration can actually reach Him. Realizing the Lord within you as the motivator, is the task for which He comes in human form.

Other Avatars

Avatars like Rama and Krishna had to kill one or more individuals who could be identified as enemies of the righteous (*dharmic*) way of life, and thus restore the practice of virtue. But now there is no one who is fully good, so who deserves the protection of God? All are tainted by wickedness, so who will survive if the Avatar decides to uproot [wickedness]? Therefore, I have come to correct the intelligence (*buddhi*) by various means. I have to counsel, help, command, condemn, stand by as a friend and well-wisher to all, so that they may give up evil propensities and recognizing the straight path, tread it and reach the goal. I have to reveal to people the meanings of the *Vedas*, the *Sastras* and other spiritual texts which lay down the norms.

If you accept me and say, "Yes," I too respond and say, "Yes. Yes. Yes." If you deny me and say, "No," I also say, "No." Come—examine, experience, have

that is the method of utilizing me.

I do not mention about Sai Baba in any of my discourses, though I bear the name as Avatar of Sai Baba. I do not appreciate in the least the distinction between the various appearances of God—Sai, Rama, Krishna, etc. I do not proclaim that this one is more important or that the other is less important.

Continue your worship of your chosen God along the lines already familiar to you. Then, you will find that you are coming nearer and nearer to me, for all names are mine, and all forms are mine. There is no need to change your chosen God and adopt a new one when you have seen and heard me.

Every step in the career of the Avatar is predetermined. Rama came to feed the roots of truth (*sathya*) and righteousness (*dharma*). Krishna came to foster peace (*shanti*) and love (*prema*). Now, all these four values are in danger of being dried up. That is why the present Avatar has come. The righteousness that had fled to the forests has to be led back into the villages and towns. Unrighteousness that is ruining the villages and towns has to be driven into the jungles.

Your Liberation, His Work

Come just one step forward; I shall take a hundred steps toward you. Shed just one tear; I shall wipe a hundred from your eyes. I bless only thus, may your bliss (*ananda*) grow. I have come to give you the key to the treasure of bliss, to tell you how to tap into that spring, for you have forgotten the way to blessedness. If you waste this chance of saving

yourself, it is just your fate. You have come to get from me tinsel and trash, petty little cures and promotions, worldly joys and comforts. Very few of you desire to get from me the thing that I have come to give, namely, liberation itself. And even among these few, those who stick to the path of spiritual practice and succeed, are only a handful.

Your worldly intelligence cannot fathom the ways of God. He cannot be recognized by mere cleverness of intelligence. You may benefit from God, but you cannot explain Him. Your explanations are merely guesses, at-

tempts to clothe your ignorance in pompous expressions. Bring something into your daily practice as evidence of your having known the secret of the higher life from me. Show that you have greater brotherliness, speak with more sweetness and self-control. Bear defeat, as well as victory, with calm resignation.

I am always aware of the future, and the past, as well as the present of everyone of you, so I am not so moved by mercy. Since I know the past, the background, my reaction is different. It is the consequence of evil, deliberately done in a previous birth, and so I allow your suffering to continue, often modified by some little compensation. I do not cause either joy or sorrow. You are the designer of both these chains that bind you. I am the Embodiment of Bliss (*Ananda Swarupa*). Come, take bliss from me. Dwell on that bliss and be full of peace. My acts are the foundations on which I am building my work, the tasks for which I have come. All the miraculous acts you

Your worldly intelligence cannot fathom the ways of God.

observe are to be interpreted as such.

The foundation for a dam requires a variety of materials. Without these, it will not last and hold back the waters. When the Lord has incarnated, He has to be used in various ways for the upliftment of mankind.

No Publicity

The Lord has no intention to publicize Himself. I do not need publicity, nor does any other Avatar of the Lord. What are you daring to publicize? Me? What do you know about me? You speak one thing about me today and say another tomorrow. Your faith has not become unshakable. You praise me when things go well, and blame me when things go wrong. When you start publicity, you descend to the level of those who compete in collecting by decrying others and extolling themselves.

Where money is calculated, garnered or exhibited to demonstrate one's achievements, I will not be present. I come only where sincerity, faith and surrender are valued. Only inferior minds will revel in publicity and self-aggrandizement. These have no relevance in the case of the Avatar who needs no advertisement. The establishment of *dharma*, righteousness, is my way. The teaching of *dharma*, the spread of *dharma*, that is my objective. These miracles, as you call them, are just a few means toward that end.

Advice to Aspirants

Some of you remark that Ramakrishna Paramahansa said that yogic

powers (*siddhis*) are obstructions on the path of the spiritual seeker (*sadhaka*). Yes, *siddhis* may lead the spiritual aspirant astray. The aspirant has to keep straight on without being involved in them. His ego will bring him down if he yields to the temptation of demonstrating his yogic powers. This is correct advice which every aspirant should heed. But the mistake lies in equating me with the *sadhaka* like the one whom Ramakrishna wanted to help, guide and warn. These *siddhis* or powers are only in the nature of the Avatar. The creation of things with intent to protect and to give joy is spontaneous and lasting. Cre-

ation, preservation and dissolution can be accomplished only by the Almighty, no one else can. Cynics carp without knowledge. They learn the scriptures, but if they

*I do not need publicity,
nor does any other
Avatar of the Lord.*

cultivate direct experience, they can understand me. Your innate laziness prevents you from the spiritual exercises necessary to discover the nature of God. This laziness should go. It has to be driven out of man's nature in whatever shape it appears. That is my mission.

The Lord's Resolve

My task is not merely to cure, console, and remove individual misery. It is something far more important. The removal of misery and distress is incidental to my mission. My main task is the reestablishment of the *Vedas* and *Sastras*, and to reveal the knowledge about them to all peoples. This task will succeed. It will not be limited; it will not be slowed down. When the Lord decides,

His divine will cannot be hindered. You must have heard people say that mine is all magic, but the manifestation of divine power must not be interpreted in terms of magic. Magicians play their tricks for earning their own livelihood, worldly fame and wealth. They are based on falsehood, and they thrive on deceit, but this body can never stoop to such a low level.

This body has come through the Lord's resolve. That resolve is intended to uphold *sathya*, truth. The divine resolve is always true resolve. Remember, there is nothing that divine power cannot accomplish. It can transmute earth into sky and sky into earth. To doubt this is to prove that you are too weak to grasp great things like the grandeur of the universe. I have come to instruct all in the essence of the *Vedas*, to shower on all this precious gift, to protect the ancient wisdom (*sanathana dharma*), and to preserve it. My mission is to spread happiness, I am always ready to come among you—not once, not twice or thrice—but as often as you want me.

Welcome Problems

Many of you probably think that since people from all parts of India and even foreign countries come to Puttaparthi, they must be pouring their contributions into the coffers of the Nilayam. But let me declare the truth, I do not take anything from anyone, except their love and devotion. This has been my consistent practice for all these many years. People who come here are giving me only the wealth of faith, devotion and love.

*I do not take anything
from anyone except their
love and devotion.*

That is all. Many of you come to me with problems of health and mental worry of some sort or another. They are mere baits by which you have been brought here. But the main purpose is that you may have the grace to strengthen your faith in the Divine. Prob-

lems and worries are really to be welcomed, as they teach you lessons of humility and reverence. Running after external things produces all this discontent. That type of desire has no end. Once you become a slave to the senses, they will not let go until you are dead. They are unquenchable pests. But I call you to me and even grant worldly boons to you, so that you may turn Godward.

No Avatar has done this before—going among the masses, counseling them, guiding them, consoling them, uplifting them, and directing them along the path of *sathya*, *dharma*, *santhi* and *prema*. My activities and movements will never be altered, [no matter] who may pass whatever opinion of them. I shall not modify my plans for the establishment of righteousness, my discourses, or my movements. I have stuck to this determination for many years, and I am engaged in the task for which I have come; that is to inculcate faith in the path of the highest peace (*prasanthi*). I shall not stop nor retract, not even one step. Not even the greatest scientists can understand me by means of their laboratory knowledge. I am always full of bliss. Whatever may happen, nothing can come in the way of my mission. That is why I am able to impart joy to you and make your burden lighter. I never exalt when I

am extolled, nor shrink when reviled.

A Great Chance

Few have realized my purpose and significance, but I am not worried. When things that are not in me are attributed to me, why should I worry? When things that are in me are mentioned, why should I exalt? For me, it is always, yes, yes, yes. If you will give up all and surrender to the Lord, He will guard you and guide you. The Lord has come just for this very task. He is declaring that He will do so, and that is the very task that has brought Him here. I know the agitations in your hearts and your aspirations. But you do not know my heart. I react to the pain that you undergo and to the joy that you feel, for I am in your hearts. I am the dweller in the temple of every heart. Do not lose contact and company [with me], for it is only when a lump of coal is in contact with live embers, that it can also become a live ember. Cultivate a

*This chance will not
come your way again.
Be aware of that.*

nearness with me in the heart, and you will be rewarded. Then, you too will acquire supreme love. This is a great chance.

Avert the Crisis

This chance will not come your way again. Be aware of that. If you cannot and do not cross the sea of grief, taking hold of this opportunity now, when can you get such a chance again? Be confident that you will all be liberated. Know that you are saved. Go and tell all that you came to Puttaparthi, and that you received the secret of liberation.

Many hesitate to believe that things will improve, that life will be happy for all and full of joy, and that the Golden Age will reoccur. Let me assure you that this *Dharma Swarupa*, this Divine Body, has not come in vain. It will succeed in averting the crisis that has come upon humanity.

—Sathya Sai Baba
Divine Discourse, Prasanthi Nilayam, 1968



People of all ages, of all states of health and wealth, of various levels of learning and intelligence come to Prasanthi Nilayam. This Abode of Supreme Peace is also a refuge for those who have no other place to go. Do not treat anyone as an alien. Remember that all have me as their guardian and support. Have no anger, malice, envy or pride against anyone. Be full of humility, have faith in human goodness.

—Sathya Sai Baba
From a Discourse, February 13, 1995

Vision of Dasara

I Saw Him So That Morning

*As a lion appears in the dream of a sleeping man,
And by shock or sudden fright the dreamer awakens,
Sri Sathya Sai now is there,
Stepping through the silver door of the mandir.
Behold Him, dark blue of visage,
Majesty and power explicit in every facet of head and face,
Framed by dark yet tawny hair,
Magnificent mane, fright-inducing almost,
Formidable, danger immeasurable,
By sight striking caution to the boldest of men.
Lion of God, poised to leap,
Fearless, brilliant of eye, eye of the universe,
Primal spark to creation,
Durga, Vishnu, Brahman, Dattatreya no less.
O lion of God, O lioness of Dasara,
Unleash Thy implacable anger at that which stays Thee from Thy prey,
For we consumed are as Thyself.
Open wide Thy jaws, gates to the flood of creation,
And roar Thy mighty roar,
Striking the ear of every sleeper.
O lioness of Dasara,
From all dreaming, awaken us now.*

—John S. Hislop, Ed.D.

This past *Dasara* or *Vijaya Dasami* was held in early October. It is a time for the Vedic rites of offering grain and ghee into a sacrificial fire. Baba says that is only symbolic of giving up the ego to the alter within, so that all work done in the world is accomplished with selflessness.

—Editor

The Prophecy of Shuka Naadi

Naadi is the collective name given to palm leaf manuscripts written by ancient sages describing the characteristics, family history as well as the life story of certain significant individuals. The sages or *rishis* who wrote these *naadis* had such remarkable foresight that they accurately foretold the entire future of mankind. Sanskrit scholars in different parts of India have in their safekeeping several *naadi granthas* (volumes) of ancient palmyrah leaves written by the great sages: Bhrugu, Vasishta, Agasthya and others.

A well-known astrology professor of Bangalore, Ganjur Narayana Shastry, recently traced a *Shuka Naadi Grantha* (a volume of palm leaf manuscripts by Sage Shuka) on Sri Sathya Sai Baba, entitled *Sai Charitamrita Grantham*. It consists of hundreds of palm leaf manuscripts written in Sanskrit and is thought to have been set down over 5,000 years ago. It describes accurately and at great length Sri Sathya Sai Baba's family tree and many facts about Him. It gives interesting details of all that He will accomplish in this present life, and also the great miracles to come.

Among many other things, the palm leaves of Sage Shuka say: Born in *Akshaya* Year, in the month of *Kartika* (November), on Tuesday, *krishna chaturdasi* (fourteenth day of the dark half of the month), in *Ardhra* Star, *Vruschika lagnam* possessing the eight *siddhis* (eight powers) enumerated in Patanjali's *Yoga Sutra*.

This person of divine aspect was previously a Shirdi resident. He is one who

can do things through His will, a person of great powers, but with no love of worldly glory and money. All *rishis* declare that He has the power of *ichhama-ranapraapti* (ability to give up His body whenever He wants). He is a person in the *nirvikalpa samadhi* state, and will live only for the protection of *dharma* (righteousness). His mission is for helping people, and for this He will distribute everything in the proper manner. He is born for the purpose of propagating *dharma*, and the place where He lives will become sacred.

He can go in different forms and give *darshan* (seeing a holy being). He can ward off difficulties, dangers and obstacles. He will establish an ashram near a place where there are vehicles with many wheels, and will also establish educational institutions that show spiritual strength. He will show His omniscience in many ways to devotees, who if they surrender to Him with faith, will get a chance of destroying their sins and deriving peace and merit.

His glory will spread, and many people will get near Him. But, all cannot get His grace, due to past sins. The *Shuka Naadi* declares that this great person will be a *brahmachari* (a celibate who does not yield to joy or grief) who will help others and show an equal attitude towards men and women. He will move like a mother amidst women. He will be a *Prema Swarupa* (Embodiment of Love), *Ananda Swarupa* (Embodiment of Bliss) and *Jnana Swarupa* (Embodiment of Wisdom). But, only those who are enlightened will be able to experience Him

as *Ananda Swarupa* (Embodiment of Bliss).

He can be experienced but not expressed; as a mute person can eat but not speak. Total equanimity will be His. He sees the world as a blade of grass. He will not be concerned with public opinion and will only do what is right.

He will be a representative of Shirdi Sai Baba and will be born as a result of the prayers addressed to Shirdi Sai Baba. He will give *samadhi darshan* (viewing of his tomb) to Shirdi Sai devotees. Similarly, after He has flown from this body, Sathya Sai devotees will have *samadhi darshan* at Whitefield which will be venerated as sacred soil.

His life will be for the good of mankind (*loka kalyanam*) in the way described by Krishna in the *Bhagavad Gita*: "*Whenever righteousness declines, and unrighteousness prevails, I manifest myself.*"

The *Naadi* astrologer said that *adharma* (unrighteousness) has grown to three-fourths proportion, and when it increases by one-fourth more—that is, when all become unrighteous—then Sri Sathya Sai Baba's full powers will come into play and will be known in the world. In other words, evil has to rise to its utmost, before His divine quality can be fully realized.

As things stand at present, Sri Sathya Sai Baba displays only one-tenth of His real self. After a while, His efforts to save the world will increase tenfold. He will show that He alone can control the fury of nature. He will also plant a tree in Brindavan, Bangalore and that place will become a field of energy, and the tree will become a wish-fulfilling tree.

The *Shuka Naadi* states that good

will accrue to anyone who sees Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Lord Sai's birth is for the succor of mankind only, so everything pertaining to Him is for the good of the world. Though He is fully aware of His own powers, He will reveal them only when He has to and always at the appropriate time.

His grace will make people overcome their problems, surmount difficulties and guide them towards progress. In a short time, His greatness will spread farther, and there will be universal worship of Sathya Sai. He will show Himself in many places simultaneously—though He will actually be in one place—and there will be many divine acts and manifestations.

He will erect a flagstaff of righteousness at a significant time and thereafter righteousness will visibly increase. What He does may appear simple to us, but the effects of His actions will be immense and far-reaching.

He is tolerant and compassionate by nature and treats everyone equally. He does not hurt feelings or express anger when errors of ignorance are committed. Often He speaks in jest, but He speaks the truth. When He publicizes any aspect of Himself or His activities—which is not always—He does so at such times only and always for the growth of righteousness, instilling good ideals of life, and creating an atmosphere of goodwill.

Sage Shuka refers to this as spreading the gospel of righteousness, so that people may be enlightened. It is known from time immemorial that God incarnates again and again for the reestablishment of righteousness. He will prove in the course of time the truth of the saying, "Righteousness protects the righteous." Sri Sathya Sai Baba will have

jnana vidya (knowledge of wisdom), rather than merely mundane knowledge.

His early schooling was in Uravakonda. He was born to devotees of His Shiridi days upon whom He could not, as Shiridi Sai Baba, bestow full grace. Even now, though there is the relationship through birth, He is towards His family as He is towards all.

Sainatha [as Lord Sai is referred to in this text] will teach people that this world is illusory. His divine powers will be known in the world. Even though in India, He already blesses people in other parts of the world with His vision and presence. Many worship His photographs. They keep a separate room for Him in their homes, for they believe that He lives with them always.

If people recognize the truth of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, salvation will not be long to follow. Trust in God becomes easy, and one can rise from a worldly existence to true reality. The importance of bodily life will lose value as one realizes that the body will soon be dust or ashes. The Sai path demonstrates that self-inquiry and adoration of God are essential on the path to ultimate liberation.

By listening to Sri Sathya Sai Baba, people will be guided onto the right path; their minds will be cleansed and all doubts will vanish. All unessential mind activity will die, for He is the Divine in fleshly form, born to elevate mankind.

Sage Shuka also refers to another aspect of Sri Sathya Sai Baba: He says that this Avatar will have healing powers, and the power to cure Himself by the sprinkling of water. This power is beyond nature's laws and not found anywhere in the world. Sri Sathya Sai Baba will use His healing powers not only for

the people of this world, but also for the beings of other worlds, and on a higher plane of existence (*devatas*). At times, there will be inexplicable situations when He takes on the illnesses and sufferings of these other beings to save them from the curse and ill will of others. In such cases, He will cure Himself when the danger has been averted.

He also has the power to lengthen life, and there have already been a few cases of people being given a longer lease on life. But, there are many whose sins are so great that they still bear their fruits, and they may not receive Sri Sathya Sai Baba's grace. When the *Kali-yuga* influence becomes even more intense, then people will see His true might and will acknowledge that He is the Supreme Power. Then mankind will bow to Him as to a great emperor and He will be revered as the greatest living being (*Mahapurusha*) in the world.

Lord Sai does everything according to a plan; for He is born with a purpose, a mission to fulfill. He is omniscient. This is God's natural state and not a state achieved through education. He does not forget anything. There is nothing that He does not know. And these are qualities that are always His.

He has great purificatory powers. Merely the sight of Him, or the slightest word exchanged with Him, can purify one. Everyone needs such purification for, if we are born into this world, it can only be as a result of some faults in a past life. But by exposure to such a divine personage and by His influence, they are automatically diminished or nullified.

The *Shuka Naadi* emphasizes that Lord Sai is *Mahavishnu Swarupa*, a form of the great Vishnu Himself. Seeing Him

is the same as looking upon Lord Vishnu. Sage Shuka gives Sri Sathya Sai Baba a lineage other than the one generally known. He says that it was Kabir Das who returned to earth as Shirdi Sai Baba, who in turn is now Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who will also return to earth in another form. But this is nothing new; so far He has had 101 lives and always for the good of the people and the world. As Shirdi Sai Baba, He willed another birth to relieve the distressed of the earth, and so is now reborn as Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In this life, He is fully divine, fully God. This is a life of total sanctity, fully endowed with *Brahma jnana* (divine wisdom).

Those who, without understanding and without even the will to understand, criticize Him, commit a sin. But very soon, more and more people will come to accept His divinity, for they will have seen His divine powers. Since the spring

of 1979, the tide has turned and *dharma* has slowly reasserted itself. Atheism will begin to decrease. India will come into better days, too, and once again the influence of the present *Mahapurusha* will be decisive. Sri Sathya Sai Baba will perform even greater miracles, more wondrous than any He has performed up to now. One of the examples of His miracles mentioned in the *Shuka Naadi* is that He will keep an airplane airborne for a long time after it runs out of fuel, through His will alone.

The *Shuka Naadi* also mentions that Sri Sathya Sai Baba will always retain a youthful look, age notwithstanding. He will teach great truths, even smile at the human weaknesses of listeners. Very soon now—the days of His great glory as *Mahapurusha*—the incarnation of Lord Vishnu will be upon us.

—Shakuntala Balu

From her book, *Living Divinity*



Develop prema (love) toward the Lord, the parama-prema (highest love) of which He is the embodiment. Never give room for doubts, hesitations or questions to test the Lord's love.

You whine, "My troubles have not ended, why?" "Why is it that He did not speak to me?" "How is it that I did not get a room for staying here?" "Why did He not call me?"

Do not think that I do not care for you. I may not talk to you, but do not be under the impression that I have no love. As a matter of fact, it is to give you the chance of darshan (seeing a holy being) that I move along the verandah from this place to that. Whatever I do, it is for you, not for me. For what is it that I can call mine? Only you.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. IV, Chap. 19

Young Adults

Sai, My Family and Me

I've never spoken about my experiences with Swami before, so allow me to share my thoughts with you. My father was the first person who told our family about Sathya Sai Baba. In 1986, he discovered a book in our public library by Howard Murphet entitled, *Sai Baba, Man of Miracles*. He read it through and was thoroughly fascinated by it.

Like many families, we too had an experience that brought us closer to Baba. We were lunching in an Indian restaurant with a family friend, and we saw a picture of Baba hanging on the wall. We asked the waitress if she knew where we could get a picture like that. She answered, "No." So, that was that. However later, when we stood talking outside the restaurant, a Mercedes pulled up next to us, and a distinguished looking gentleman got out (the late Richard Bock). He came over to my father and asked, "Were you looking for a Sathya Sai Baba Center?" We were all astonished, and it took us a while before any of us could answer. My father slowly nodded. The man pulled out a card and handed it to us and walked back to his car. The card held the address of the Sathya Sai Baba Center of Hollywood. Right there was the first sign from Swami that we were welcomed into the Sai family. Now I call that a miracle!

When I first went to *Bal Vikas* class at the Hollywood Center, I was with a friend, and we arrived just as everyone was leaving. I was instantly overwhelmed with the love the teachers showed me.

They didn't even know me, and still, I was taken under their protection. I went home, and made my dad promise to take me every Sunday. And, so far, he's kept that promise.

I've come to realize that growing up as a Sai teenager in this modern world is really a challenge. We are in the middle of two worlds; the Sai way of seeing things, and the American way of seeing things. And when you go out in the world to see things for yourself, you really are caught in the so-called web of life. Your peers have an extensive influence on your outlook on life. It's taken me a long time to figure out that I have to go by what my heart says, and not by what my friends say, because I'm different from them. I have gone to *Bal Vikas*, and I've learned about Baba's teachings and what He expects of us. That is how I developed my conscience, that little voice in the back of my head that keeps on nagging me when I'm doing something wrong. Now, I can hear it more than ever. I'm at the stage where, if I'm about to do something wrong, I stop myself before I do it. That's what is expected of me, and I have tried to learn to practice what Baba teaches.

I remember when I was younger, how I wanted to be a teenager because that sounded cool. But now that I think about it, I wish I could go back to being a kid. You are so innocent, trusting and protected then. There are so many more responsibilities associated with being a teenager, because that is the time when

permanent changes take place. I have to be so careful in every action, as I know that Swami is watching me 24 hours-a-day. My parents don't always know what I'm thinking or doing, but Sathya Sai Baba sure does, and that makes me more cautious.

Swami has changed me, though sometimes I wonder why it isn't more apparent. He has molded me into the person I am today. I have learned to be more compassionate, caring and happy, and most important of all, He has taught me to love all.

I have a very big character flaw, and I will admit it because I have been able to improve, a little bit. I can be very ego-tistic. I know it's bad, but I have been able to make it less visible. My parents pointed it out to me, but I brushed it off as if it were not important. As I grew up, I realized that it had gotten way out of hand. So, I prayed to Swami to help me get rid of it; I didn't want it to lead to other character flaws. I still can be Miss Ego, but I've learned a little more about self-control.

As every family does, we've had our tough times. From my personal experience, I don't know if I could be what I am today without Swami. I had a hard time accepting the fact that Sai Baba will always be there for me, whether I like it or not. And believe me, I like it! In my heart, it took me a little longer to accept Swami as God. I didn't actually think it was possible, so I didn't call on Him when I felt all alone. When I had troubles, I didn't tell anyone. I tried to figure out a solution by myself. But then, I realized that I could talk to Him whenever I needed to, there was no certain time or place. When I discovered that, I was relieved.

At *Bal Vikas*, they teach us all these quotations and what Swami expects of us, but when we go out into the world it's hard to put those principles into practice. I'm not a person who has a lot of will power, so it takes me a while before I do anything related to God. But one quotation that has been with me ever since I first heard it is, "*Love all, serve all.*" I love that one. It holds so much valuable information. For me, it sums up everything Swami has ever said to us. That is the quotation by which I try to live. I haven't quite succeeded, but I've become a little better. I know that from everyday experience, I am more God-oriented. I think differently than some of my peers; now, I'm more considerate of other people's feelings. I feel sorry for anyone who hasn't heard of Swami. I know that I'm fortunate to actually be one of Sai's children. That gives me reassurance when I'm feeling down.

In August, 1989, when the Glendale *Bal Vikas* class had its first interview with Baba, I can honestly say that was the most special day of my life. Swami was so loving, I didn't know that one being could radiate so much love. Although my older brother, Ishan, got a lot of attention, I was so enchanted by Swami's love that I didn't have time to feel jealous. I was proud of my brother, and knew that Swami was loving me as much. Just being near Him is an altogether different feeling. Now, I know what is meant when someone says, "Baba is the embodiment of love." He is the greatest source of love to ever walk upon this earth, and I have come to depend on that love.

—**Rhutu Amin**, age 15
Arcadia, California

Is This Fulfillment of a Prophet's Vision?

Among the various prophecies in ancient scriptures of the world, and those by sages and seers contained in palm-leaf volumes carefully preserved by Sanskrit scholars, and of which photographs have been seen* giving details of the advent of the Sai Avatar in the 20th century (the Shuka palm-leaf manuscript, thought to be approximately 5,000 years old, even gives the date, month, and day of the birth, as well as the stars at the time, and the name of Sai), none appears to be so amazingly detailed as the prophecy by the prophet Mahomed.

Some years ago, an Iranian writer browsing at a bookstall in Teheran, was irresistably drawn to a huge volume. It was the 14th edition of the discourses of Mahomed, in 25 volumes translated as *The Ocean of Light*. It is said that these discourses were collected together some 700 years after Mahomed's death.

Volume 13 of *The Ocean of Light* is called *Mehedi Moud* in Arabic, which means "The Great Teacher that was promised." This teacher is also referred to as "Master of the World," "Master of Time," "God's President," "A Great Part of God on the ground," and "God speaking and advising." Moreover, Mahomed gave copious signs or marks by which the great teacher could be recognized.

Asked by his disciples if he, Mahomed, was "The Master of the World," he said that he was not, and that no prophet of God who had ever come to this world had come with the powers with which He will come. Here are the details:

* In the book, *Living Divinity*, by Shakuntala Balu. See pages 9-12 of this issue.

- His hair will be profuse.
- His forehead will be large and concave.
- His nose will be small, with a slight bump at the bridge.
- His front teeth will be spaced apart.
- He will have a mole on his cheek.
- He will not have a beard but will be clean-shaven.
- His clothing will be like a flame.
- He will wear two robes (one an under-robe or *dhoti*).
- The color of His face will be sometimes like copper, sometimes yellow like gold, sometimes very dark, and sometimes shining like the moon.
- His body will be small in size, but his stomach will tend to be large.
- His legs will be like those of a young girl.
- All the teachings of all the religions of the world will be in His heart from birth.
- All the science and knowledge of the world from the beginning of time will be in His head.
- All things which you will ask from God, He (the Master of the world) will give to you.
- All the treasures of the world are under His feet.
- He will give gifts that are light in weight.
- His devotees will collect under a great tree (the huge banyan tree).
- Many of them will have a spot on their foreheads (Hindu *kum-kum* spot).
- He will go around among devotees

and touch their heads with His hand.

- Every eye who sees Him will be happy, not only humans but disembodied souls.

- His devotees will crane their necks to see Him.

- He will live 95 years on earth. (Sai Baba says He will retain this body until the 96th year. Indians very logically call the actual day of birth the first birthday.)

- In the last 20 years of His life He will be the "King of the whole world," but at that time only two-thirds of the people of the world will believe in Him (from A.D. 2001). Moslems will only recognize Him nine years before His passing from the world (A.D. 2012).

- He will live on a hill. (The ashram, Prasanthi Nilayam, is situated on a hill.)

- His house will be square.

- He will make the world light and full of peace.

- So as not to be deceived, you should know that the Master of the World will bring things out of His body, through His mouth."

Mahomed also prophesied the decline of true spirituality among his followers, for he told his disciples, "You can never find Him because at that time you will be so bad that you cannot recognize Him. Only a handful of you will find Him.

"Christians and other people of other religions will see Him, but Mussalmans will be so bad that they will not find Him,

not until nine years before His passing from the world. You will be spending great sums of money on your mosques, but no one will go there to pray.

"You will make much art for the *Koran*, but no one will understand it. The real teachings of Moses were hidden in a cave in Antioch, and the Master of the World will give the real teachings."

The Iranian writer who came upon the above volume of *The Ocean of Light* has written a book in which the actual translations from the Arabic are given. The book is naturally written in the Parsee (Persian) language, but the author hopes that an English translation will be made. [This was stated several years ago. The editors of this publication are not aware if the English translation of that text has been done as yet.]

Meantime, further inquiries are being made. Also, efforts are under way to discover documented evidence of the vision which Pope John XXIII had just before he died, in which he wrote about a small, barefoot man, with dark skin, in a red robe, who appeared to him.

As the year 2000 draws nearer, let us not close our eyes, or our hearts. In his discourses, Mahomed is said to have told his disciples, "You could have stretched out your hand and been with Him, but you missed Him."

Excerpted from *Two Worlds* magazine, London
Reprinted in *Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA*
Fall 1983

The Avatar comes to reveal man to himself, to restore him his birthright of Atmic bliss. He does not come to found a new creed, to breed a new faction, to instill a new God. If such happens, it is the consequence of the evil in man. The Avatar comes as man in order to demonstrate that man is divine and to be within reach of man.

—Sathya Sai Baba
Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume VIII

Description of an Avatar

This excerpt of one Avatar describing another Avatar seems particularly touching at the time of the 70th birthday. The names and forms may vary, but the Oneness is self-evident. In the reading of Baba's words about another name and form, we see Baba Himself.

—Editor

Rama was supremely gentle. However harsh others might speak, He used to reply softly and sweetly. Though others might do Him harm, He never remembered it against them. He only sought to be good and to be of service to them. Whenever He found time, He would discuss with aged monks, revered Brahmins and learned scholars, codes of good conduct and rules of morality. He analyzed the mysteries of Vedantic thought in simple words and like an ordinary inquirer, He posed problems before pundits for elucidation. The sages and scholars who had mastered the science of Vedanta and philosophical inquiry were elated at the elaborations given by Rama of the knotty points that He raised. They praised in a thousand different ways His intelligence and scholarship.

Rama spoke to His subjects even before they spoke to Him, so ardent was His love toward them. He lovingly inquired about their welfare and was full of sympathy for them. So the subjects too loved Him as their staunchest friend and dearest kinsman, and they revered Him for His affectionate interest in them. Rama followed strictly the various rules of living dictated by tradition, whatever the inconvenience or discomfort. To whomsoever He spoke, He had a charming smile on His face, a twinkle in His eye and sweetness in His words. No one noticed the slightest trace of anger, dislike, despair or hate in His face.

He was the embodiment of compassion and sympathy. He was full of eagerness to rescue those who surrendered their wishes to His will. Undesirable habits to which royalty is an easy prey never dared to approach Him. He was not a victim of the evil habits of garrulity and dalliance. In spite of this, if anyone displayed before Him their cleverness in argument, He would never fail to foil them by a more clever counter argument, and put them in their place. He never knew illness of body or anxiety in the mind. He recognized the needs of the people and, even before they presented them, He considered the response that could be made and remedied the grievance. Rama paid attention to even the smallest detail of administration and took adequate precautions to see that problems and complexities did not raise their heads once they had been solved and set right. Another quality which was evident in Rama was: He never revealed in advance what He had resolved in His mind. Until it took final shape, no one could make out His will or wish. His anger or resentment, or His satisfaction would never be futile. He would not delay or allow Himself to be diverted or deceived. With such supreme characteristics, Rama shone in glory.

Rama stole the hearts of all who came into His presence; they were overcome by eagerness in their single-pointed devotion to Him. They felt that the true



Dear Bhagavan: We, the devotees of the United States of America, offer our gratitude for your having taken a human birth, so that we may observe, love and learn from this Avatar.

contemplation of His face and repetition of His name were all the austerities that they had to practice thereafter. He discoursed on righteousness

and spiritual disciplines during both day and night to those who gathered around Him.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Ramakatha Rasavahini, Vol. I

Baba's Levels of Time

Baba's life up to age 16, was to perform *leelas* (divine sport, with the whole universe as His playground). From age 16 to 35, He performed "miracles," events that can not be explained by known laws. From 35 to 60, Baba was teaching and performing inexplicable acts or miracles. Even after age 60, His close devotees may continue to see Him. His body will live to the age of 96, and will remain young.

Conversations with Sathya Sai Baba, by John S. Hislop, Ed. D.

An Avatar's Advice

Avatars seldom give advice directly. This is characteristic of all Avatars from time immemorial. Whatever they wish to communicate, they convey more often by way of indirect suggestions and rarely by direct methods of instruction. The reason for this is that Divinity is inherent in every human being and may be manifested spontaneously if favorable conditions are provided. This inherent Divinity is like a viable seed which will germinate and grow into a tree if suitable facilities are provided for the manifestation of its potential.

People should be able to correct themselves by their own efforts—by merely being given timely suggestions—rather than by having stultified their freedom and dignity through directives imposed from without. In short, the best maxim for helping people are, "Help them to help themselves," or "Self-help is the best help."

—Sathya Sai Baba

Summer Showers 1990, pages 95-96

Sixteen Aspects of an Avatar

Baba: The difference between man and an Avatar is that man comes into the body with tendencies as a result of past actions. Baba takes a body without any tendencies, completely free, no desires, no attachments, always happy.

Q: What are the 16 aspects or characteristics of the Avatar?

A: Man experiences 15 factors, but he is not their master. However, as control is gained, man comes closer to the 16th, the all-knowing *Paramatma* (the supreme, absolute, universal consciousness). The 15 factors to be mastered are—the five working organs which deal with talking, walking, taking, rejecting (excretion) and eating—the five sense organs which deal with hearing, touching, seeing, tasting and smelling—the five elements which are earth, water, fire, air and space. The 16th aspect is, omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience.

Conversations with Sathya Sai Baba, by John S. Hislop, Ed. D.

Divine Grace Water Project

In the preparation for Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 70th birthday, I have been given much work and little time. That's Baba's way! The lesson from this is, "In other's welfare lies our gain." The title of this project, the "Sathya Sai Divine Grace Water Project," was given by a poet from Thailand who has written poems about Baba in both Thai and in English. Here is one example:

*"Sai Baba has set the norm,
For worship at its highest form.
To remove the misery of others,
And to treat all beings as brothers."*

Water for 700 Villages*

The area called Rayalaseema, in which Puttaparthi is located, lies in the State of Andhra Pradesh, India. Although this area is the birthplace of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, it has year after year been stricken by continuous, serious shortages of water. This scarcity has caused unbearable suffering to many people living there who are our sisters and brothers. With their children, they walk barefoot in the hot sun an average of 4.6 km everyday, carrying heavy pots of water on their heads. There is also a high arsenic content in the wells due to contamination from the soil, and this has produced serious lesions on the feet and hands of the people. The central government of India and the state government have been trying their best to alleviate this water shortage which affects not only India, but other countries in Asia. The United Nations has said that water will

be the world's most critical resource by the year 2000. . . .

We know that Baba has come for the entire universe. . . . To remove the suffering and the sickness of these people, He announced on November 23, 1994, that within one year, He would supply potable drinking water to the villages with a total population of approximately 1.3 million (500 to 3,000 in each village). On November 23, 1995, we shall celebrate Baba's 70th birthday and all these 700 villages, because of His divine will, shall receive water. There are many more needy villages which, hopefully, the Sai Organization will be encouraged to help in the future.

A Chance to Serve

Baba's heart is with the poor and with the needy; His heart is with the people who are thirsty wherever they are. . . We cannot be selfish in our relationship with Baba. We have to make a choice in this 70th year. Are we really Sai devotees, or do we only call ourselves devotees? Repeatedly Baba says, "*I and we are one; you and I are one.*" This is a chance He has given to us to become a part of His mission.

On February 25, 1995, large crowds were sitting, waiting for Baba's *darshan* (seeing a holy being). But, He did not appear. What was He doing? He was talking about the great spiritual significance of the water project to 600 students in the Poornachandra Auditorium. He came out for *darshan* at 8:00 o'clock

*Note that the number of villages was initially 700 but has been recalculated to include more.

in the morning, instead of 6:45.

Baba was explaining to the students that there are five methods by which water could be supplied:

(1) To sink wells in the dry river beds. (2) To establish canals from the existing irrigation canals. (3) To construct summer storage reservoirs (to prevent evaporation of the water due to the intense heat). (4) To sink bore-wells wherever there is a resource of water in the ground. (5) To provide overhead storage tanks with capacities of about 150,000 litres of water.

The total cost of this project is estimated at 70 million U.S. dollars, approximately twice the budget for constructing the Super Specialty Hospital, or about \$100,000 per village. These estimates include the cost of surveys of water availability and quality, supplies and equipment, the boring and drilling, the pump installations and so forth. Baba's projects are so holy and sacred that every person involved—whether non-devotee or devotee—does their best to bring about His projects. Some 2,000 km of the main pipeline are being installed using appropriate materials. When Baba undertakes something it lasts a long time, and the pipes, like the hospital, will last a thousand years. We understand that this service will live beyond our physical bodies. Thus, Baba has given us a chance in this body to gain the merit of a thousand years.

Spiritual Significance

Why has Baba undertaken this project in His 70th birthday year? What is its spiritual significance? What is the gift we can give Him for His 70th birthday? What does He want from us? Among

the answers are that He wants our love and devotion or wants us to be good. But I should like to mention a rather special answer which arises from the following questions posed by Baba:

(1) Who rules the universe? The answer usually is God, the Creator or Bhagavan Himself. (2) Who rules God? God is ruled by truth. (3) Who rules truth? Baba said that noble souls rule truth. The only gift Baba wants is that we should become noble. We should become noble and be happy. The spiritual significance of this water program is that through this process, He has given us a chance in this 70th birthday year to make ourselves noble and happy.

In His talk to the students, Baba said that two-thirds of our planet is water, which is the life source. One can manage to live with little food but not without water. Water is the symbol of purity. And as purity is Divinity, water is God. But why is water the symbol of purity? Baba gave three explanations:

(1) Water originates in the form of God from the head of Shiva, as the Ganges River, which is symbolic to the Indian people. (2) What is the role of the ocean? It is to cleanse the universe. Through the evaporation process, we have rain which cleans every plant, every road and everything else that has to be cleaned. (3) Then, who cleans the ocean? It is the duty of the fish to purify the ocean. The very strong odor of fish is related to all the dirt they have collected. So, water is a purifier, its job is to purify. Purity is Divinity; water is God.

In a letter to a student which was published in the book called *Premadhara*, Baba asks, "How will you know that I am near to you?" The answer is, "When

your mouth is parched and you can hardly speak, in the first sip of cool water you take, I am soothing you. So, think of me, for I am the water." In the text of the *Bhagavad Gita*, Lord Krishna said, *"I am the taste of water."*

This precious water is often wasted. If a drop of water leaks every second from a tap, in one day this amounts to gallons of water lost. Washing the car with a hose wastes a lot of water, so use a bucket. In toilet flushes in our homes, much water is being used. When washing dishes or brushing our teeth, the water should not be allowed to run. Water is sacred. To give water is to give God. God is love. To give love is to give water. The service of giving water is the highest form of worship. In religious ceremonies, e.g., Christian baptism, water represents a spiritual element.

The significance of this particular *seva* (service) is to recognize God in man, seeing the oneness in all humanity. Baba has taken up this project in order to raise every devotee who participates, through Advaita or nondualism, to see the oneness as we cross national or geographical borders. For example, when offering your heart to thirsty people, whether in China or elsewhere, you are crossing many frontiers to serve the one caste of humanity. By sharing the pain and by lightening the burden of those who suffer in famines, earthquakes and other calamities, we should not think that we are helping God, because there is nothing that man can do for God. We are only practicing what Baba has said, thereby, helping ourselves to become noble.

We all know that by Baba's will, by simply raising His hand, He could start

a hundred rivers to flow. But the master of nature follows the law of truth, the law of nature. Therefore, this is Baba's *leela* (divine play), and we must not be deceived by the illusion. This is not a project for which any funds have to be raised. It is the consciousness that has to be raised.

"How Can I Serve?"

You may ask, "How can I serve in this project?" There are five ways:

(1) **The service of prayer.** One day, Baba was in His car and pointing to a beggar, He told the person seated next to Him, *"If you give money to a beggar it will last only a day. But the prayer you offer will change the life of that individual. The prayer will reach God, and it will bring a transformation of that person."* We say a prayer before we eat, but for 30 seconds in this particular year of the 70th birthday, before we drink any fluids, we should think of the pain, the suffering and problems of the people who have nothing, not even a glass of water.

(2) **The service of the intellect.** Architects, engineers, geologists and others engaged in water supply and related fields, who can and want to help, are welcome to speak to their local Sai Service Coordinators.

(3) **The service of labor.** Physical labor by volunteers was planned originally, as was the case during construction of the hospital, but there were major problems. For example, the villages are scattered in the interior of the state with no proper living accommodations or other facilities. Moreover, for each foreign devotee, two Indians would be required to help him. For your information, 13,000 people are now working two

shifts a day to finish this project on time. A truck can carry only two pipes at a time, so one can imagine what a great task it is to lay down 2,000 km of pipe line.

(4) **The service of supplying materials.** A supply of items such as pumps, pipes, tanks and other construction materials is needed. Note that such items must meet the required local specifications.

(5) **The service of spiritual effort and sacrifice.** We already know that Bhagavan Baba, the Central Trust, and the Sathya Sai Organization never solicit any donations. This project is not open for solicited donations, it is open for *sadhana* (spiritual effort), it is open for sacrifice to take us to nobler heights. If God was for sale, people would try to "buy" Him. We receive everything from God totally free, and it is our *dharma* (duty) to volunteer and participate wholeheartedly in every service project that Baba announces.

As active members in the Sai Organization, we must open our eyes and raise our consciousness to become a part of Baba's mission. This project is looking for earnest, sincere people who want to do service. Baba says, "*My life is my message.*" But what is the message in this 70th birthday year? There are different views and interpretations of His message. But to me, the 70th birthday and the Divine Grace Water Project can mean only one thing, which He has repeated in every discourse this year: "*Sacrifice, sacrifice, sacrifice!*" When Baba said, "*Expansion is my life,*" what did He mean by expansion? You must expand your heart. Do not restrict it to your temple or house, your center or your region.

Baba is universal. We are part of His mission, so we are universal.

In the Service of God

Recently in China I was asked, "Why should the Chinese Sai Organization be involved in a water project in India?" I would, therefore, like to clear any doubts some of you may have. When God created the universe He did not name any country, nor did He draw any boundary lines—you are in China, and I am in England—it is one universe. It is one humanity. Since Baba is the Avatar, He knows which particular region of this universe needs immediate help, which needs intermediate help, and which needs secondary help. We cannot determine the actions of the Avatar. We can only follow. So, if He decides that He is going to serve a particular district in China, America or India, those who are in the Sai mission must join with Him all the way through. This is expansion of life, the expansion of consciousness to realize that the whole of humanity is one. The service that Baba is doing comes first and must be given top priority. His projects are selfless, and to participate in them is the purest service.

In Puttaparthi, on the Vidyagiri hill [overlooking Hillview Stadium], there are five statues of the great masters: Lord Krishna, Lord Christ, Lord Buddha, Zoroaster and Lord Shiva. But above them is a huge statue of Hanuman. Why is this statue of Hanuman bigger than Shiva? Why is it higher? There is great significance in whatever Baba does. Hanuman is the symbol of courage and devotion. He was a servant of Lord Rama and reached divine heights by serving. This is what Hanuman has taught us.

When one serves God in man, that servant becomes God. Baba has given us a chance in this 70th birthday year to follow the quickest way from being a servant or going to that higher level of being a devotee like Hanuman.

This project is a mammoth task. If you think it is impossible, it will become impossible. The first thing, therefore, is to think that it is possible, and we are going to do it. Why? Shortly before Lord Rama was to be crowned as king, He was ordered to leave the palace and go into exile for 14 years in the forest. His mother, Kausalya, His wife, Sita, and His younger brother, Lakshmana, all wanted to go with Him to the forest. The citizens of Ayodhya, the capital of His kingdom, also walked all the way to the boundary of the forest to take leave of Him. Even the birds and the monkeys under the leadership of Hanuman supported Him. Why was everybody helping Rama? Because Rama's mission was righteous, *dharmic*.

When our mission is to serve the Avatar, to serve humanity, that is righteousness, and nothing will stand in our way. We may not have financial or technical resources, but the greatest resource we have is our own will, coinciding with the divine will. If we have that will, all the resources will follow. Baba says in all His discourses, "*Dharma protects the practitioner of dharma*." If we keep this in mind and follow the path of *dharma* (righteousness), nothing will come in our way.

How Can We Participate?

Participation in this project is possible through the practice of the Ceiling on Desires (COD) program, while always keeping in mind that this whole project is an exercise in *sadhana* to help make us noble. The spiritual discipline of COD teaches us to limit our personal desires starting with simple daily needs like several cups of coffee or tea, soft drinks, snacks, cosmetics, etc. An example for me, is when my birthday or wedding anniversary comes around, I feel that I should buy new shoes or new clothes. But at what cost? I think of the suffering of people who have no water. Unless our consciousness has expanded through the COD program, we will not know the true benefits. So, we must constantly be aware of, and always practice, the Ceiling on Desires program. (Phyllis Krystal and others have described how to implement this program. These texts may be translated and discussed widely to facilitate implementation).*

The actual amount saved is secondary. If one person practices COD as an expression of his or her love for Baba and for all humanity, one might save a considerable amount of time, money, food and energy in a day. So, the savings can be substantial when several people are involved in the COD program. A tangible pool of savings can be realized to support worthwhile projects. What is important is to participate wholeheartedly in this spiritual exercise.

*The pamphlet entitled *Suggestions for Ceiling on Desires* by Phyllis Krystal, describes the ideas and ideals for implementing the Ceiling on Desires program. It is available at the Sathya Sai Book Center of America at a cost of \$1.50.

If interested, please see page 35 for the Book Center's address.

In the February 1995 issue of *Sanathana Sarathi*, there is a story about a boy in Baba's school in Puttaparthi who practiced Ceiling on Desires. A few years ago when the Super Specialty Hospital was being built, Baba was very busy with the doctors and architects, and He had very little time for the students who deeply felt this separation from their Sai mother. One day, a student offered Baba a letter, which He took. Baba then returned to the interview room with the doctors. Normally, He would not come out for an hour or so, but on that occasion, He came out after a few minutes with the letter still in His hand. He called the boy to Him and, with his permission, read the letter to all who were on the verandah:

"Dear Bhagavan,

"You have given so much to me and to everyone here. You have provided free education for me and all my brothers, and now I hear that you are constructing a big hospital that will provide the most modern health care facilities to every section of the society totally free of cost. Bhagavan, I also want to be a part of your glorious mission, but I am just a small boy, and I don't know how I can contribute. My parents are extremely poor, but in spite of that, they send me a little extra pocket money every month.

In an interview, Sathya Sai Baba spoke of the three necessities of humankind: He said that first there must be clean, pure water, for without it people cannot be healthy. And without water there can be no plants, no food supply.

Second, is education, with character. Swami used to say, "*Education without character is useless.*" Later, He amended that by saying, "*Education without character is dangerous!*"

Third, there must be health care for those who need it. Baba then emphasized preventative health care through the practice of proper hygiene, improved nutrition, no smoking or taking alcohol, meat etc. Baba often says, "*Health is wealth.*"

I know it's due to their love and concern.

"Bhagavan, for three months I have not given my clothes to the *dhobi* (laundry man). While all the other boys were sleeping in the night, I washed my clothes, and thus, I managed to save a little. I have also resisted the temptation of toffees, chocolates and all other things and thus managed to save some money. Bhagavan, I offer this 100 rupee note to you. I feel ashamed and small to give you so little, but even if this money can be used to buy a small brick for the foundation of the new hospital, I will be the happiest child in the world.

"Your loving Son"

Baba said, "*That brick is not made of mud, but of love and sacrifice and was given with a pure heart.*" This is what Sathya Sai Baba wants from us all.

Sisters and brothers, Baba will never ask you to do something. We have to open ourselves to see what we can do. Look at His examples: He uses but one bucket of water for His bath, and puts the lights on and off each time He enters or leaves the interview room, thereby saving energy. If you want to benefit, if you want to be noble, if you want to walk hand in hand with Baba, He has shown us how to do it.

—**Ryuko Hira** of Japan

Excerpted from a talk given by Mr. Hira in Geneva, Switzerland, June 10, 1995

—*Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA, Summer '95*

Children's Corner

Caring for Others



There was a day, many, many hundreds of years ago when Gautama Buddha went on a journey with his disciples. They traveled to a monastery, the place where monks and priests spend their days in prayer to the Lord. When they arrived, the people gave Buddha and his followers a wonderful welcome. They showered Buddha with beautiful food, lovely sleeping quarters, and many gifts. Everything was done for Buddha's pleasure. But, even though Buddha expressed thanks and told them that he appreciated those things, he said that instead of concentrating on receiving gifts, he wanted to know if there were any sick or needy people in the monastery. ♦

The monk who was in charge of the monastery told Buddha, "O Lord, we do have a monk in the infirmary who is quite ill. But please, do not attempt to see him. His body is full of wounds and sores that you should not have to lay eyes upon. He may have a contagious disease, too." Silently, Buddha turned away from the head monk and the beautiful things that had been presented to him, and he walked right over to the infirmary where the ill monk was lying on a cot. Buddha entered the room where the monk lay in terrible pain. No one had come to help him, and he was in desperate need. Buddha turned to the man and asked, "Brother, how are you? Is anyone attending you?"

The monk replied, "Lord, I am in great distress." Buddha looked deeply into the man's eyes and asked him if it was the pain of the wounds that hurt the most. The monk shook his head, "No Lord. My pain is that I am no longer useful. If I cannot serve, if I cannot do your will, then I have no reason to live." Buddha's followers joined him in caring for the monk. For several days, they washed his wounds, fed him, and treated him until he could take care of himself.

One evening, Buddha's followers and the monks gathered around him for a discourse. They asked why he ignored all the gifts and went straight to the ill monk. "My brothers," he said, "Service is love in action. Whoever wants to serve me, let him first serve the needy and the helpless. Whoever wants to wait upon me, let him first wait upon the sick." Compassion, caring for others, was Buddha's message. Sai Baba teaches us the very same thing.

We can help at home, with service projects, and even when our sisters and brothers are sick. Maybe we can read to them or help pick up their homework from school, or bring them their meals. We could ask them what they need or what we could do to make them feel better.

Remember, the way to the Lord is through loving service, whether in the time of Buddha or in the time of our Baba. It never changes. Loving service is the greatest!

—Source Unknown

Summer Showers of Divine Grace

In August, 1994, Swami invited me to bring 18 U.S. students to the next Summer Course in 1995 and perform a musical drama. We arrived in May and spent the first half of the trip focused on Swami's daily discourses on the *Bhagavatha*,* and our efforts to rehearse our play entitled "Time to Care." The obstacles were many.

Initially, there was illness for half of our drama troupe, continual power outages, and the inability to rehearse on stage because it was the site of Swami's discourses and the stage was set up accordingly. We did our best, but without practicing with lights, sound system, props and the actual space itself, we were seriously concerned about the quality of our performance before Swami. At the very last minute, some of the necessary ingredients were on hand, but not all were available for any one rehearsal.

Swami announced that He would end His discourse early (by 5:30 P.M.) on May 27th, so that everyone could have dinner and return to the auditorium for our performance at 7:00 P.M. Food was sent by Baba to us backstage, another example of His continual attention to detail, no matter how small. We appreciated the thoughtfulness, but no one had much of an appetite.

Just before the performance, we were surprised when Sathya Sai Baba,

came backstage. Within minutes, Baba totally changed the tone from nervous concern to joyous laughter and smiling confidence. We had made great efforts in creating the play, but it clearly was divine grace alone that canceled the obstacles and made it a success. Swami was very pleased. After the performance, He came on stage, spoke to us, gave gifts, posed for pictures, allowed us to take *padnamaskar*** and perform the *arathi****. We were very happy, very happy. The first half of our challenging trip was over. Through the euphoria of Sai's bliss, we could only marvel at the transforming grace of His will.

The second half of our trip had begun. It was marked by a daily deluge of divine love expressed in many ways and highlighted by six interviews, countless surprises, and an all-pervasive state of deep joy. "*These are good boys*," Baba told me on four separate occasions. Coming from all over the United States, several had the experience of *Bal Vikas* training. Several have also been teaching *Bal Vikas*****. The effect of Swami's educational system is just now beginning to emerge as an important force in His sacred mission in our country. Living in the midst of negative peer pressure and destructive media bombardment, many of the boys have succeeded in living student lives similar to that in Baba's

**Bhagavatha* is one of the texts in the *Vahini* series written by Sri Sathya Sai Baba and chronicles the life of Lord Krishna. *Bhagavatha* also means, text of divine love.

***Padnamaskar* is the custom of paying homage at the feet of a holy being.

****Arathi* is a ritual of worshiping God by burning camphor.

*****Bal Vikas* is the Sai educational program for children.

schools. All are seriously striving to become good examples.

Baba invited half of the boys to speak in His presence before the assembled student body from Brindavan and Puttaparthi in His home, Trayee Brindavan. In most cases, He called the boys up to the swing in which He sits and asked them to give a talk. In a couple of instances, He gave a specific topic such as: "*Speak about the Sai Organization.*" One evening in Trayee Brindavan, He said, "*Tomorrow morning, you will lead the bhajans (devotional songs).*" Following His instructions, we practiced that night with the student musicians at the hostel. For the beginning part of that Thursday morning *bhajan*, Swami stood next to us and filled Sai Ramesh Hall with bliss. Clearly, He was very pleased and later told us so.

During the course of our interviews, we received many teachings and had continual interaction. Baba asked the boys their names and what they were doing and then added, "*I know everything, but I ask questions to give you the chance to talk.*" We had the incomparable delight of speaking to and with the Lord. "*What is youth?*" Sai asked and answered by saying that youth has nothing to do with the age of the body but rather, "*Youth is determination.*" Later, He asked, "*What is surrender?*" None of us came up with the suitable answer, so the Lord gave the answer: "*Surrender is seeing Oneness.*"

At the very first private interview with us, Swami began by extending His arms forward in an all embracing motion and said, "*You are all my children, I am your mother. You are all mine. I am all yours.*" That deeply moving

opening, set the tone for the most memorable experiences of our lives.

The Lord later gave His approval of a young adult portfolio presentation showing how our meetings are being conducted. He then gave a go ahead authorization for a national young adult quarterly called, *Sai Student Bulletin*, which He carefully reviewed. Only after His approval, did we make copies and distribute them.

Swami was very clear that at all meetings we come together for spiritual purposes only, and that our focus must be on Him. Socializing, therefore, has no part in young adult meetings.

Several days later, during what was the most extraordinary interview imaginable, Sai was like a magnet and we, the iron filings, tightly clustered around Him as close as we could possibly get. During that interview, Swami materialized gifts and gave inspiring proof of His omniscience and omnipresence. Then, He talked to us about speaking in public. He told one of the boys, "*You are joking too much, but it is good sometimes.*" His instructions were both general and specific: "*Never say that you were bad. Say that you were not good.*" And then, He went on to underscore the avoidance of all negativity. Whatever criticisms or problems we have had with our parents, our schools and our country, they are not to be talked about. "*Respect your parents, school, nation, planet.*" He said that what should be talked about is our relationship with Swami, and our experiences of personal transformation that have come about through Him. It was clear to all that the Lord was training us for our future work as both practitioners and speakers.

Then, Sathya Sai invited us to come to His 70th birthday, and told us that He would provide rooms and not to worry about money. *"It will rain money if I think it,"* He said. At a later time, Baba gave several boys the exact arrival dates for His birthday.

At the same interview, we took individual and group photographs with Him. Baba invited us to Kodaikanal and then added. *"I will take you to the forest at Mysore, and we will spend 24 hours there. I will call the elephants, and they will come. I will call the bison, and they will come. I will call the deer, so many deer, and they will come. I will call the lions, and they will come. And, I will call the elephant without a tail, and he will come."*

How beautiful! How deeply moving! We were ready to leave for Kodaikanal

immediately. We are still ready! Our bags are packed.

One boy asked Swami why He loved us so, and Sathya Sai said, *"Love is my nature,"* and softly, ever so sweetly, He sang in a whisper, *"Love is my form."* Later, He added, *"Love is my protein."*

We came away with a sense of mission and purpose to dedicate our lives to Sathya Sai Baba as good examples and well-disciplined, good instruments.

For all the many experiences with Swami, we are deeply grateful. For the countless wonders and mysteries of His grace, we are humbled and thankful. For the power and conviction of His words which bind us so close to Him. For the divine shower of the transforming bliss of God's love, we are grateful.

—Hal Honig

New York, New York

Synopsis of his trip with 18 young adult men



So many people are coming to Prasanthi Nilayam from different parts of the world. What brings them here? Are invitations being sent? Does anyone ask them to come? It is only on account of the love that is here and it is felt heart-to-heart. Through love, you can accomplish anything in the world. Consider love as the Atma (the indwelling Divine) itself.

However many scriptures you may read, however many spiritual exercises you may do, if you do not allow your heart to melt with compassion, then your life will be a sheer waste. All practices have to be directed toward softening your heart, so that it will flow with kindness and love. Develop this feeling of compassion and allow it to flow fully and spread among all the peoples of the world.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Prasanthi Nilayam, March 30, 1987

A Letter and Announcements

From the Central Coordinator

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sai Ram! As the 70th birthday of Sri Sathya Sai Baba draws near, we become more conscious of time. Swami has said that we should calculate the lapse of time in proportion to work accomplished, rather than the revolutions of the earth around the sun. This July, Swami told me that despite the fact that He is in His 70th year, He is doing more work than before, and He added that there is "*no worry in Swami.*" He indicated that He does what must be done and remains always happy. His attitude is not affected by the work or the world.

Consider the Accomplishments

Consider the work that Baba is doing, the work that you and I are able to observe, which is, no doubt, only the tip of the iceberg. He takes responsibility for all important decisions made in the university, the hospital, the ashram, the water project, the construction in the ashram, etc. He continues to care for His devotees everyday in the midst of very intense and important developments. These are only the events that we can see. What else is Swami doing in this universe? What other responsibilities is He fulfilling in order to maintain harmony in God's creation? And yet, He says in a very cheerful manner, "*In Swami, there is no worry.*"

In this year of the 70th birthday, Swami has undertaken greater and more numerous projects for the benefit of mankind. Sai Baba is not affected by the

ravages of time. The intensity and complexity of the work that He has undertaken has increased to levels beyond our comprehension. Yet, Swami remains unaffected. He does not worry and has no reservations. He does not procrastinate. He does not become overwhelmed. He does not require rest or relief. He continues to do what He says He will do, all for the benefit of others, all for the upliftment of mankind.

John S. Hislop, Remembered

The loss of Dr. John Hislop is felt all over the world. He died peacefully in the presence of Sai devotees thinking of Sai. A memorial service was held for him in San Diego on August 27. Let us learn from his wisdom, be uplifted by his love for Swami, and emulate the unswerving dedication that he exemplified.

The work on the book containing Hislop's recent talks to Sai devotees continues. We have collected many hours of inspiring talks. They will be recorded for posterity in a new book that will be presented to Swami on the 70th birthday.

Events of Guru Poornima and Progress of the Water Project

Several important events occurred in July, at this past *Guru Poornima* (a day to honor one's spiritual preceptor). Swami inaugurated the Divine Grace Water Project by turning on a switch placed on the verandah of the *mandir* and connected to an apparatus that started the flow of water to the drought-

stricken villages of Rayalseema. In the morning, Swami turned the switch with His hand and the water began to flow. In the afternoon, torrents of rain came down from the sky in a divine deluge that emphatically confirmed Swami's intention to bring life saving water to the droughted areas of Rayalseema in Andhra Pradesh.

Yet another precedent was set in Prasanthi Nilayam, with the two-day international cultural events that took place on the 10th and 11th of July. Artists assembled from all over the world to perform in the divine presence of Bhagavan Baba. It was a beautiful demonstration of unity in diversity. The rhythms and melodies were many, but the music was one. One musical offering, coming from many cultures, but born out of the same love for God. Only in Swami's divine presence could such an event take place.

An article appeared in a respected Indian newspaper that eloquently described the cultural events. I have included the first and the last paragraphs of that article which read as follows:

"It was a dream, a music festival encompassing the globe in its richness and diversity, drawn from 15,000 Sai Centres in 137 different countries, representing 13 separate cultures, taking 132 days of painstaking preparation, and 40 tons of equipment to present a theme of global unity to Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Prasanthi Nilayam at Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh. . . .

"The beginning is the end, and the end the beginning. What marked the two-day, eight-hour global fest, the first of its kind, was the sense of oneness, of belonging, the utter simplicity of the pre-

sentation and the rich variety of music and dance that marked the beginning of a consciousness that Prasanthi Nilayam, in the course of time, will become a centre of the art, music, and dance talent available in the world, and a structure of global unity."

Young Adults' Program

A national young adult's committee has been formed, chaired by Bill Harvey and includes Hal Honig and Phyllis Krystal. While there will be various occasions when the young men and young women will be present in the same meetings. Great care must be taken to observe Swami's instructions on this matter.

The fundamental guidelines for young adults' that have been sent to the Sai Centers in a previous correspondence should be followed. Definitive guidelines will be developed after the forthcoming World Conference.

Program for 70th Birthday and Seventh World Conference

The tentative program for the 70th birthday is given below. The specific agenda for the 7th World Conference is being developed based on the responses to the general agenda that was circulated to all Sai Centers worldwide. And Swami has announced that food and lodging will be given free from the 17th through the 24th of November.

Nov. 14-17 Cultural Events

Nov. 17 Registration for the VII World Conference

Nov. 18 Inauguration of World Conference, Divine Discourse

Nov. 19-20 The VII World Conference deliberations

Nov. 21 Conclusion of VII World

Conference, Divine Discourse

Nov. 22 Convocation, Discourse

Nov. 23 Birthday, Inauguration of Water Project, Divine Discourse, and the *Jhoola** Ceremony

Nov. 24 Divine Discourse

Super Specialty Hospital

Do not send equipment and medical supplies to the hospital without authorization. Well-meaning devotees have sent medications, supplies, and/or equipment to the Prasanthi hospitals. Hospital authorities have requested that these donations should stop for several reasons:

The Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences has very modern equipment and is well-supplied. Future acquisitions of supplies and equipment must be compatible with the needs of the distinguished surgeons and physicians who are working in this great hospital. In addition, failure to observe proper procedures can cause the hospital to be out of compliance with the regulations of the Government of India. If you wish to engage in any service of this kind, please contact me directly before taking any action.

Flights to Puttaparthi

Regarding regular Indian Airlines Flights to Puttaparthi: At the end of July 1995, Indian Airlines began regular flights between Madras/Puttaparthi and Bombay/Puttaparthi. These flights will continue at least until the end of the year,

and probably through February. On the next page is a schedule of these flights, and they are now listed with international carriers. Your travel agents should be able to book your reservations.

Swami has repeatedly advised us not to waste time, energy, and money by unnecessary delays and hotel stays when we travel to India. As Sai devotees from all over the world utilize this Indian Airlines service to Puttaparthi, we will be able to perpetuate the service and increase the frequency of the flights.

In Gratitude

My family and I are very grateful to all of you who sent cards, letters, and called to express your condolences upon the death of my father. Your love for my father and compassion for us is greatly appreciated.

Observe the Divine Mission

Let us all contemplate the words and deeds of our beloved Swami. These past 70 years have been a growing crescendo of noble themes and lofty works. Swami has accelerated the tempo of the "Divine Symphony." Now we are able to perceive the escalation of activity, the intensification of the "Divine Mission," the declaration and the reality that His will is being done. Let us reflect on our own lives. Every breath brings a new opportunity for redemption.

In the Service of Our Beloved Swami

—Michael G. Goldstein, M.D.



**Jhoola* is a swing in which Sai is gently rocked by some devotees to the accompaniment of appropriate music. This inspiring ceremony is symbolic of the omnipresent God swaying gently in our hearts.

Indian Airlines Schedule

Effective July 31, 1995 to Februar 1996

From	Days	Flight Number	Departure	Arrival
Bombay to Madras Puttaparthi	Wed, Sun	IC-970	11:00	14:05
	Wed, Sun	IC-970	11:00	12:20
Madras to Bombay Puttaparthi	Mon, Thurs	IC-969	11:00	14:05
	Mon, Thurs	IC-969	11:00	11:55
Puttaparthi to Bombay Madras	Mon, Thurs	IC-969	12:45	14:05
	Wed, Sun	IC-970	13:10	14:05

Fares	J-Class	Economy Class
Bombay—Madras	Rs. 4003.00	Rs. 2076.00
Bombay—Puttaparthi	Rs. 3227.00	Rs. 2324.00
Madras—Puttaparthi	Rs. 1594.00	Rs. 1157.00

Please note: All flights are aboard Airbus—A320. At the present time there are no flights to Puttaparthi on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.



You have come from God. You are a spark of His glory. You are the wave of that ocean of bliss. You will get peace only when you again merge in Him. Like a child who has lost its way, you can have joy when you rejoin your mother.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. V, Chapter 47

...The good fortune that has brought you face to face with me is something for which you must thank your own merit won through many lives. This is no ordinary good fortune. This incarnation is moving with you, singing with you, talking with you, sharing with you, your joy and grief, in order to console, encourage and cure. This relationship is unique; it has to be kept unbroken until the goal is reached.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. VI, Chapter 68

Ignore Evil Rumors

The good are always the target of malice, envy, slander and abuse from the wicked. Be assured that your goodness can be made strong enough to withstand these ordeals. Avatars, too, are not exempt from the attentions of these wicked forces.

Krishna had to encounter these obstacles from the very cradle right up to the finish of His life on earth. Personal spite, slander, unfounded abuse, and defamation followed Him at every step. Demons who could not tolerate the light and love that He cast around Him conspired to tarnish His name and obstruct His mission. They tried to bind Him, defeat His plans, and pervert His instruments. But truth triumphed and falsehood stood exposed and disgraced.

Truth may be clouded for some little time by the fog of slander, but victory is certain. The forces of hate will be defeated by their own wiles; they dig a pit that they themselves fall into; their actions result in reactions which are ruinous to themselves. . . .

Krishna was undefeated, ever pure, ever bright, and ever effulgent in renown. Those who tried to defeat Him were themselves defeated. Those who tried to cast slurs on Him were forever tarred by their own blackness. The malignancy of those who could not bear His glory caused their own eternal disgrace, but that did not affect Him. His glory was increased a hundredfold with challenges from the peddlers of slander.

Persons who cannot tolerate the glory of the Avatar have indulged in such campaigns in every age. They have con-

tributed to the heightening of the splendor and the spread of the message in every age. They are all instruments for propagating the glory of the Avatar throughout the world.

Even today such things happen, but all of you must recognize the fundamental falsehood, and carry on your spiritual practice with undiminished enthusiasm and joy. The "Sai Principle," the "Sai Divinity" can never be affected by any slander. It can never be shaken by any tactics. Its progress can never be halted. Do not pay heed to the rumors you hear. . . .

Just as devotees remained unruffled in the age of Krishna, you must stand firm and be unaffected. Faith must endow you with courage and calmness. . . . Devotion to the Divine will give you bliss, prosperity, and peace. It cannot inflict pain, perturbation or personal anxiety. It fosters love and brings all together as one band of brothers and sisters. The Avatar will not be affected in the least by trivial tactics. He is love itself; thus He is always in bliss, always happy.

Krishna lived all His years singing and dancing in the ecstasy which was His very nature. . . . I, too, am unaffected by praise or blame. My bliss never suffers diminution. . . . Love knows no fear, no untruth, no anxiety, no grief. I am love, I shower love, I share love, I am pleased with love. I bless you that you have more and more love for more and more beings. Love is God. God is Love. That is my message.

—Sathya Sai Baba
Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. IX,
Chapter 22

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hood stood exposed and disgraced.

Truth may be clouded for some little time by the fog of slander, but victory is certain. The forces of hate will be defeated by their own wiles; they dig a pit that they themselves fall into; their actions result in reactions which are ruinous to themselves. . . .

Krishna was undefeated, ever pure, ever bright, and ever effulgent in renown. Those who tried to defeat Him were themselves defeated. Those who tried to cast slurs on Him were forever tarred by their own blackness. The malignancy of those who could not bear His glory caused their own eternal disgrace, but that did not affect Him. His glory was increased a hundredfold with challenges from the peddlers of slander.

Persons who cannot tolerate the glory of the Avatar have indulged in such campaigns in every age. They have con-

dow you with courage and calmness. . . . Devotion to the Divine will give you bliss, prosperity, and peace. It cannot inflict pain, perturbation or personal anxiety. It fosters love and brings all together as one band of brothers and sisters. The Avatar will not be affected in the least by trivial tactics. He is love itself; thus He is always in bliss, always happy.

Krishna lived all His years singing and dancing in the ecstasy which was His very nature. . . . I, too, am unaffected by praise or blame. My bliss never suffers diminution. . . . Love knows no fear, no untruth, no anxiety, no grief. I am love, I shower love, I share love, I am pleased with love. I bless you that you have more and more love for more and more beings. Love is God. God is Love. That is my message.

—**Sathya Sai Baba**
Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. IX,
Chapter 22

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