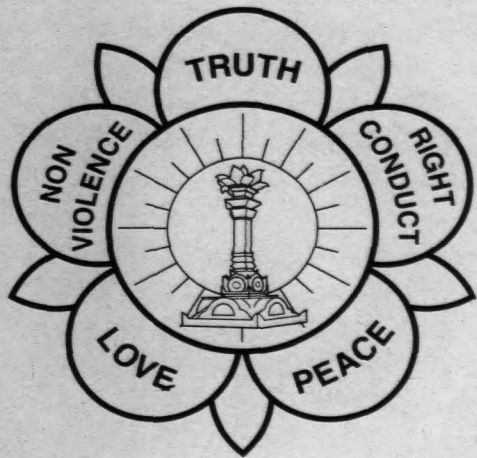




SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER, USA

WINTER 1996-1997
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2
NOVEMBER, DECEMBER,
JANUARY

November, December, January

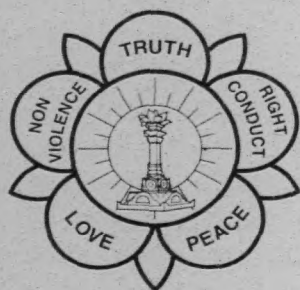
Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA

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

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Sathya Sai Service Opportunities.....Edited by Judith Wechsler



At this time of celebrating the birth of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, we have been given the gift of a new symbol. This logo will remind each devotee that the five values—Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Nonviolence—are equivalent to God.

The *Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA* welcomes photographs, drawings and literary contributions. Sorry, but we are unable to return any material which is sent to us, so please keep a copy for your files. We reserve the right of discrimination in selecting and editing material for publication. Kindly send any material to: **Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA, P.O. Box 660908, Arcadia, California 91066-0908** or **Fax (909) 337-5270.**

—Barbara Bozzani, Editor

Sai's Message, words to remember as His birthday approaches.



I bless that you have a long life, good health, bliss, peace and prosperity, and that you will devote your physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual strenghts and skills for the service of your country and all mankind.

—Sathya Sai Baba

From a Discourse, November 23, 1982

Young Adults

A Practical Lesson

No religion has a separate God showering grace upon those who profess to abide by that faith alone. It is the destiny of mankind to journey from humanness to Divinity.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Sai Baba has given me a precious gift. He has allowed me to grow up with Him in my life. My parents first discovered Him when I was a year-old, and from then on, He has been a part of my life. I can't remember a time when I didn't listen to conversations about Sathya Sai Baba at dinner, or see pictures of Him on the wall in our home. He has permeated most every part of my life, and what a blessing it has been.

But having Baba in my life has also been difficult at times, because I felt different from my friends. I couldn't understand why they didn't love or even like Him. When I was in high school, friends would come over to our house and stare in awe at the huge, life-sized pictures of Sai and ask, "Who is that? Beethoven? Your dad?" "No," I'd say, and then give a quick explanation about how Sai Baba is a holy man, an Indian teacher who gives to others and says that all religions are one. When they didn't ask questions, I'd wonder why. What's so strange? Why aren't they interested in Him like I am? Did I not explain Baba correctly? I became confused and frustrated.

One of my friends in high school was a very strong Christian who came from a tightly knit family that believed in doing good and giving to others. Excellent!

That's just what Baba teaches, and I explained that to her. But, she still didn't want to hear any more about Swami, and it hurt my feelings. I went to my parents and discussed this with them. It took numerous conversations and a long time for the following words of Sathya Sai to finally sink into my heart and mind:

The whole of mankind belongs to one religion. The religion of mankind. For all people, God is the Father. As the children of one God, all are brothers and sisters. I have come not to disturb or destroy any faith, but to confirm each in his own faith, so that the Christian becomes a better Christian, the Muslim a better Muslim, and the Hindu a better Hindu. . . .

Now I am in graduate school in Ithaca, New York, across the country from my family. I have a few friends who are Sai devotees here, but most of the people I see from day to day are not. Once in a while I still wonder to myself, "Why don't these people want to know about Sai Baba?" And then I have to remind myself that they are doing good and giving to others in just the way Baba wants them to do. Maybe understanding and being a Sai devotee is not everyone's path. Or maybe, they will have an experience that will draw them closer to Him in the future. Who knows? Only Sai.

One of my friends is a strong Jew who is extremely kindhearted and driven by a desire to help others. Another is a devout Catholic who goes to church every Sunday. She has asked me a little bit about Sai Baba, and I told her that one of His adages is, "Love all, serve all." Later that week, she e-mailed me the following message: "I realized in church today, that the priest always ends mass

with, 'Go in peace to love and serve.' Sound familiar?"

That's when it really hit home! People don't have to love Sai Baba. They can find God through their own belief system or even in appreciating the beauty of nature. Sathya Sai Baba only wants us to realize our ultimate nature—that we are all Divine.

—Judy Sandweiss

From Sai Student Bulletin, USA, Spring 1996



By boldly entering the realm of spirit, students must make all efforts to know universal truth. . . . All things and all beings in the universe have God as the cause. Persons who have not attained that knowledge of totality suffer from lack of faith. They must courageously venture on the path of discovery; that is the purpose of religion as laid down by Indian culture. There is no defect in the goals that Indian culture has laid down; the fault lies in the minds of those who judge it.

Cleanse the mind of material desires and sensual longings. Then you will find that the teachings of all religions are sound and satisfying. Desires rob people of peace. The tender hearts of students must be guarded against hypocrisy, conceit and pomp. . . .

Another warning for you is when you are aware of the truth and when you know what action righteousness dictates, you should not play false with yourselves. Apply the knowledge of truth in every crisis, follow the path of righteousness, do not be misled by falsehood, wickedness, fear or favor. . . .

The most desirable subject for study is the secret of the soul which is immortal. . . . You have come to the world as human beings in order to manifest fully the special human endowment of intelligence and intuition. This is the goal which Prasanthi Nilayam is seeking to realize through its schools, colleges and universities. . . . Your responsibility is tremendous, for you have to lift the country out of the morass of poverty, hatred, ignorance and violence. By the example of your lives, you have to restore confidence in the higher values of life. . . . Welcome within the fold of your love, all people without distinction of race, religion, color or class. Have a picture of a happy, united, love filled community in your hearts.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. XI, Chapter 20

Sai Speaks of Love

A Christmas Message

In creation, it is apparent that all matter and forms are attractive and pleasing. God pervades the entire universe; its very form is full of love.

Swami then sang a verse:

*God is the very form of love.
There is a connection
 between love and God.
So, strengthen your love.
Then you can reach a state
 of nonduality.*

Love Wants Nothing in Return

Love exists for love, and does not expect anything in return. Love is not mercenary. It does not involve give and take like a business. Love finds joy in giving. Everything is love. Love does not watch through the physical eye; it knows the heart. Love does not hear through the ears; it listens with peace. Love does not talk with words; it talks with compassion. Love, compassion and mercy are synonyms. Love is immortal, eternal, blissful and like nectar. Love originates from the heart; the heart full of such love is broad and vast.

Rivers with various names become one when they merge with the ocean. They lose their identity, taste, and form when they become a part of the ocean. The river of love also flows in many forms to meet the ocean of the heart, and takes its name and form. There is nothing in this world that cannot be achieved through love; it can accomplish anything.

Love that expects nothing in return, that has no attributes and is unsullied, can bind you to God. Selfish and narrow-minded love will bind you to the world. But, people today have lost sight of true, eternal love and use it for small and mean purposes. As a consequence, they are bound to the world and experience unnecessary sorrow.

It is the primary duty of every person to understand the nature of this true love. The one who recognizes the nature of true love can never be led astray.

What About Relationships?

All the concepts which are attached to the word "love" have nothing to do with it in the real sense. The love between mother and child, between husband and wife, are taken as love. They are not love. They are relationships. They are finite, with a beginning and an end. But true and eternal love has neither a beginning nor an end.

True love exists before birth, during life and after death. That which exists in all times is real love. The love of mother and child is one that has emerged in between. What mother loved a child before it was born? What child loved its mother before it was born? The love between them takes shape only after the child's birth. So, it is an attachment that has developed in the course of life. It is not true love.

Before the wedding, who is the husband? Who is the wife? The love between a husband and wife begins only after a

relationship is formed. This love has a definite beginning and end, so it cannot be termed true love.

Love which is true and eternal, and drenches mankind in perennial bliss is love in its truest sense. All thoughts must be full of love. Each syllable must be soaked in love. The vision must be of love. This is divine love.

Adversity on the Path

The one who is the recipient of such love will not succumb to adversity. Today, people react to praise and blame easily. Divine love will not make them elated when praised nor dejected when blamed. People may extol praise, criticize, or blame, but divine love remains the same. Divine love treats pleasure and pain with equanimity; it will meet any obstacle.

It is very difficult to know God, but it is easy to criticize Him. Mankind opts for the easy path and avoids the difficult path which leads to truth.

Pleasure is an interval between two pains, and pain exists between two pleasures. Pain and pleasure take the same form. The end of pain is the beginning of pleasure. Love causes both pain and pleasure. This is called, "divine love." People are unable to understand this divine, ever-new, ever-fresh and fragrant love. They are attracted by ephemeral, transient, worldly love, and thereby they waste their lives.

Christ Taught Love

Christ made many attempts to demonstrate and propagate this infinite, divine love. Having lost His father at the tender age of ten, He sought the permission of His mother to set out and

begin His mission of serving society. Bathing in the sacred waters of the River Jordan, He went to His teacher and made three vows:

- "I will experience divine love and propagate and exemplify it to mankind under all circumstances. This is the objective of my life.

- "I will not be elated by praise nor be dismayed when criticized. I will maintain equanimity.

- "I will recognize love as the inherent divinity in each person, and share love with all mankind."

Christ determined to make the giving and sharing of love His main objective in life. Such love was met with many obstacles and losses. Christ considered a true man to be one who could face obstacles and move forward with love.

Do not give in to obstacles, losses or pain. Do not be carried away with pleasure. Face everything with equanimity.

Christ could never see suffering passively. In Jerusalem, doves were sold and killed as an offering. Christ decried the violence committed toward the poor creatures. He undertook the holy task of stopping such violence and freeing the captive birds. Some men began to cast aspersions, slander Him, and they tried to punish Him.

The *Vedas* say, "Salutations to any living being go directly to God." (*Sarva jeeva namaskaram, Keshavam prati gachati.*) We think there is no meaning in saluting both the one who praises us and the one who criticizes us. Saluting the one who praises us is understandable, but what is the use of saluting the one who accuses us? We must have a continuous relationship with accusations, because, without them, there is no beauty

or value in being praised. Without criticism, appreciation loses its meaning. That is why, every word and every thought has some kind of obstacle. For the good, bad is a shadow. For pleasure, difficulty is a shadow. All opposites are interrelated—pleasure and pain, profit and loss—exist together.

Christ went on pursuing His path in the face of many obstacles, with strength and endurance. He gave His life for the service of mankind, for the principle of love, and for propagation of love.

Be a Messenger

Every person is a messenger; everyone is sent by God as a messenger. The messenger is one who gives the message of God to all. But today, there are few messengers who spread the gospel of God. There are messengers of Yama (the god of death) who spread contradictory messages and create chaos. People should be saints (*Avaduta*), not messengers of the god of death (*Yamaduta*). Today, in the name of God, people cause harm to others. This violates the nature of human qualities.

We are not able to understand individuality very well. The day that social and moral codes are followed, individuality will blossom. The day that value is given to integrity, then, the human personality will be revealed.

The meaning of *vyakti* is the one who expresses or manifests inherent divinity. Divinity is latent, hidden in every person and in every living being. Therefore, everyone must make the effort to spread the word of God. Everyone must determine to propagate the message of God and spread peace and security to all. There is no better path than this.

When the principle of love is fostered in our hearts, we will have no doubts, and we will be able to spread the message of love. The one without love has doubts. Doubts cause confusion and make one adopt the wrong path. God's message is unsullied, pure, eternal, selfless and unchanging.

At the time of Jesus' birth, three Arabian kings gathered. One of the kings looked at the Christ child and said, "He will be one who will love God." The second king said, "God Himself will love this child." The third king said, "This child and God are one."

The one who loves God is the messenger of God. The one who is worthy of God's love is the child of God. The one who understands the unity and nondualism of the divine principle and derives bliss from it, personifies truth. Then, "The Father and the Son are One."

So, foster love for God and become messengers of God. If you call yourself a "messenger of God," but conduct your life contrary to God's message, the message has no meaning. Such persons are not "messengers," but "messes," meaning they have lost their divinity.

You should resolve to spread the voice of God. God's gospel is always good, related to the well-being of all mankind, imbued with compassion and righteousness, and is in accordance with morality and integrity. Instead of propagating and spreading this highly sacred voice of God, we fall prey to spreading injustice, unrighteousness, untruth and evil conduct. The most important act is to spread the message of love.

Where there is love, there is no place for hatred. Today, because of the absence of love, hatred has entered and estab-

lished itself in the heart of mankind. There is no unity among people. How can you partake of happiness without unity? If there is no joy, how can you attain divinity? It is impossible. Only through love can you accomplish anything. So, every individual must consider himself or herself to be a messenger of God.

This messengership must be applied in the right way. You should lead lives free of selfishness. You may think that it is a difficult task, but in truth, there is nothing easier. It is selfishness that leads to suffering, frustration and despair, and robs people of their spirit. Thus, it is selfishness that exposes people to danger. Selfless love makes no room for the entry of bad qualities. So, you must embark on the path of love, and love for the sake of love, and offer yourselves to love.

But in this path of love, our first hindrance will be our friends and relatives. Let anyone turn against us; there is no greater objective in life than love. Love is life. One without love is a lifeless corpse. In place of worldly affections, we must develop divine love. So, we must let love flow from the depths of our hearts. We should propagate such love.

Nature Reveals Divinity

We may not understand God, but we know that every human being has five elements. There is nothing in the world that is not made of these five elements: earth (*bhumi*), water (*jalam*), fire (*agni*), air (*vayu*) and space or ether (*akasha*). These five elements are forms of God. In what manner does God reside in each of these elements?

In nature, God is in the form of awareness (*chaitanya*), which is why all of creation functions. In water, the sec-

ond element, God exists as consciousness (*pragnanam*). An unconscious person can be revived by sprinkling water on him and having him drink some water. In fire, God is present as the waking state (*jagrat swarupam*). The *Vedas* teach us to always be careful (*tasmat jagrataha*). In air, God is present in the form of life's breath (*prana*). In space, God exists in the form of the primal sound (*Aum*). Thus we see that every element reveals a facet of divinity. We also experience God's presence in every being as the sole force of the five sheaths of pure consciousness, five senses, and life's breath (*prana*).

Faulty Thinking Binds Us

Some people doubt that God is omnipresent and in all beings. They ask, "Why can't we see Him?" What is the reason for this? Those who pursue this doubt sincerely and steadfastly, who inquire into its reasons and investigate with a true heart, will certainly find their answers. We keep on doubting and thinking, but make no effort to really understand. If the food on your plate is to reach your stomach, you have to employ your hand and your mouth in the task of eating. So how can you expect to see God without making the slightest effort in that direction?

Water is present in the oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds and wells. We can see the reflection of the sun in any of these bodies of water. The reflection of the sun in the river is unsteady because the water in the river is flowing. As the water, so the reflection. The water in the well is stagnant, hence the reflection of the sun is hazy. Where do you find a steady and clear image? Only where the water is pure and still will the reflection be

steady and clear. Similarly, when our hearts are pure and selfless, we will be able to see God clearly.

When we have a wavering mind, wavering faith and unsteady vision, how can we expect to see God? As you think, so you become (*Yad bhaavam tad bhavati*). A dirty mind will see a dirty reflection. A wavering mind will see a wavering reflection. Only steady faith will see God. Therefore, the mind is the cause for everything. The *Vedas* declare, "The mind is responsible for the liberation or bondage of mankind." (*Mana eva manushyaanaam kaaranam bandha mokshayo*).

Qualities of the Mind

The mind is in three forms: The first is dull and bestial (*tamo guna*), the second is passionate (*rajo guna*) and the third is pure and pious (*satwa guna*).

Tamo guna: The dull mind will hide the truth and publicize falsehood. It continuously criticizes the good; it views the sacred as unholy. In *tamo guna*, everything is the opposite. It keeps poking fun at others, condemning others and hurting others. What a shame it is! What do we gain by looking at the faults of others? We only make our hearts impure.

If you think of sacredness, the mind becomes sacred. If you think of unsacred, unholy things, the mind becomes unsacred. As is your thoughts, so your behavior. We must correct this dull mind and instruct it not to see evil in others. Search for your own faults. Correct your own mistakes. Remove your faults, never see faults in good people. Teach your mind, then you can transcend *tamo guna*.

Rajo guna: What is the nature of *rajo guna*? This mind imagines and cre-

ates its situations. It is not aware of its own making. You can have the proof of this from your dreams. When you sleep, you create yourself in dreams. You see yourself doing many actions. You feel as if you are fighting with others. You see others mistreating you. Where did these images come from? It is all the effect of your mind; it is the creation of your mind. You even create yourself in your dreams; hence there is no wakefulness in the dream state. The mind creates thoughts; it is said that the mind is a bundle of thoughts.

Satwa guna: What is the quality of *satwa guna*? The *satwic* mind sees only good, even in those who are bad. To it, bad does not exist.

Everything in this world, created by God, is good. God has created only good, not bad. Something becomes bad because of our vision. There is nothing bad in creation. The fault lies only in our vision. Creation is faultless. Such sacred thoughts must be developed.

Then, how do we deal with what is bad? Bad is caused by faulty vision. If we wear red glasses, everything will appear red. If we wear blue glasses, everything will appear blue. Is the world colored red or blue? No. The color is only due to the spectacles that we wear.

If you believe that a particular person hates you, you will feel hatred toward him. If you believe that he is your friend, you feel friendly toward him. And whatever he does, you will see good in him. But, if your enemy does a good deed, you will see only bad in it. What is the cause for this? It is the fault of your mind and your vision. Because of these faulty thoughts, people have forgotten their inherent divinity, consequently

their human qualities have become more demonic.

Be Fearless

There is no peace and security in this world. Every person is haunted by fear and delusion. If one does good, one is scared; if one does bad, one is scared. He or she is scared even if he or she does nothing. How can one live one's life in this manner?

We must be fearless. We must come forward to do good. We should face and overcome obstacles. We should resist evil and accomplish good. We should not be carried away by the results. The person who has desires and works only for a return is a "coolie," a laborer who works only for his wages. We should not be mere laborers; we should be "owners." The coolie knows only what is outside the house; he is not aware of what is inside the house. But the owner knows of the valuables hidden inside, in the iron safe. Coolies will be attracted to the cheap baskets, sieves and other articles. We should not be laborers; we should become owners, masters. That is the true message.

All are children of immortality. All beings are embodiments of divinity. God manifests through the five elements within you. You should realize this, and then the correct feelings will emerge in your heart.

For everything, love is essential. Life without love is barren. In ancient times, the *gopikas* (followers of Lord Krishna) immersed themselves in the vast principle of love.

Swami then sang:

*In the barren heart without love,
Sow the seeds of love, and then,*

*With the force and emotion of love,
Let there be a downpour of love.
When the rivers of love flow,
Krishna plays His melodious flute.*

The flowers, the fruit—everything is love. When you see that everything is full of love, your life will be full of bliss. Even when you meet many obstacles, the vision of love should not alter or change.

Anil Kumar (translator of Sathya Sai Baba's discourses) is wearing glasses. The spectacles are in front of his eyes, so they assist his vision. Similarly, obstacles help our love to grow. Do not be deluded by these obstacles. Why do we get deluded? If we think that glasses obstruct vision, they obstruct vision. Truly speaking, nothing can hinder or obstruct the vision of love, so we should develop the vision of love.

A Small Amount of True Love

There is nothing that cannot be accomplished through love, but love should not be a business of give and take. You should not pray to God for some gain.

Swami then sang:

*Oh Lord, I return to You,
The heart which You have given me;
How else can I worship Your
Lotus Feet?*

The love within us has to be offered to God. It is not artificial or unnatural love; it should be heartfelt. Even a fraction of love is priceless. God expects only quality and not quantity.

You say, "Oh! I have attended many devotional song meetings (*bhajans*); I have done so many good deeds and charitable acts." You keep totaling in this

manner. Instead, assess the feeling and the degree of love with which the tasks have been done. God will look at the quality, not quantity. What is the value of barrels of donkey's milk when a teaspoon of cow's milk is enough? A small amount of love, if heartfelt and sincere, is enough to please God. God is not impressed by the amount of work that you do, so first attain the attitude of love.

About Santa Claus

The season of Christmas is associated with Christmas Grandpa or Santa Claus. Tokovan was his original name. He was born in Turkey. He started his career as a priest, and he gradually began to attain spiritual heights. How did he become a spiritual giant? By the principle of sacrifice.

He used to give a chocolate, or a doll or some gift to any child whom he met. All his life he kept on giving continuously. When Christmas was approaching, all the children used to run behind Tokovan. He used to carry all the gifts in a bag and distribute them to the children. In what manner did he give the gifts? He would say, "Here is a token of God's love. Here is a token of God's love," and thus distributed the gifts. Eventually, he came to be called, "Christmas Grandpa," and his original name was forgotten.

Only Love is Permanent

With the passage of time, changes are introduced. Earlier, when a child was born, he was called, "God boy," referring to the child as a messenger of God. As time passed, people began to say, "Good boy." Then, they reasoned that they didn't know whether he was good or bad, so they omitted the "o" in boy and began

to say, "Good bye." Then they omitted "good" and said, "bye, bye." So, changes have led from "God boy" to "bye, bye." It had a sacred origin, but was reduced to bye, bye.

All the things of the world are ultimately reduced to naught. Therefore, that which does not change is only one—it is love. The relationship between you and God is love alone. Nothing else can be called love. All other things that come in between are passing clouds, they are just attachments.

There is no need to suffer at all. Simply because you bring up and bear responsibilities for your near and dear ones, you develop attachments and undergo suffering. Otherwise, there is no reason for suffering. All relationships come and go—all are passing clouds.

Only one thing is permanent, and that is divine love. It connects heart to heart, and love to love, so we must develop love. Especially these days, due to loss of love, the world has become callous and cruel. Where there is love, there is no hatred, so all must live in unity and harmony. We should have affection and a feeling of oneness. Where there is unity, there is purity. When there is no unity or purity, then enmity and ill will are found, and they will grow.

You have only one heart; it is not a double sofa or a musical chair. There is only one place. Only love can occupy the seat in your heart. The other things merely come and go, but we must do our duty. I do not ask you to forsake or give up anything. Discharge your duties. Do your work or conduct business, but whatever you do, offer it to God. The *Vedas* say, "All actions should be done in order to please God."

When Swami Comes to Us

With Lessons of Love and Understanding

In how many ways and in how many forms does Swami come to us? We know not, we recognize Him not. Only after the event, do we realize that we missed the opportunity of our life.

It was Thursday, May 23, 1996. After work, I was returning home, riding the train. I was reading intently the latest issue of *Sanathana Sarathi*, April 1996. I was oblivious of my surroundings. Suddenly, a gentleman, a passenger from behind asked, "Are you reading a Hindu religious book?" I replied, "No. It is a monthly, and it does not deal with Hinduism. It deals with humanism."

He observed, "Such journals should be available in USA." I continued, "You can subscribe from here. You can get an address."

I was thinking glibly that he may get interested. Out of curiosity I asked, "What is your profession?" He answered, "I teach mathematics." I asked, "Where?" And he politely mentioned, "I teach at Harvard, MIT, Brandeis. I teach when I have something to teach." I was impressed. I was still dazed and continued, "Mathematics would have a close relationship with philosophy."

We talked a little about differential calculus, mainly regarding the derivative of a function. . . .

At the next suburban station, he turned to me and said, "This is my stop." I did not pay much attention and said, "Thanks."

But, he did not get down! Instead, he accompanied me to my terminus. We

got down together and walked several steps, continuing the conversation. He asked, "Please, open to the page you were reading in the train." I opened it, and he pointed to Swami's declaration on page 96, which said:

"*Sathya* (truth) and *dharma* (righteousness) are the two rails on which the locomotive of the nation runs. When *sathya* is given up, chaos prevails; when *dharma* is discarded, might becomes right. Unfortunately, India today is affected by the consequences of seven grievous sins:

1. "Business without morality
2. Politics without principle
3. Education without character
4. Worship without sacrifice
5. Acquisition of wealth without hard work
6. Human existence without regard for ancient scriptures
7. Devotion without austerity"

Immediately, he said rather forcefully, "Let me add," and he added four more in Swami's inimitable style:

- A. "Money is less important than honor.
- B. Honor is less important than life.
- C. Life is less important than thought.
- D. Thought is less important than freedom."

I was bewildered, and he read the question mark on my face. He slowly took from a plastic shopping bag, a book entitled, *Quantum Theory and Computer Science*, and added, "I bought this from

the Quantum Bookstore close to MIT.”*

“Let me add,” I said, “You mean, not **freedom**, you mean **liberation**.” He said, “No, **freedom**.” And he turned back, walked a few paces and disappeared in thin air! I could not believe it.

After that, I did not sleep the whole night—not a wink. Yet, in the morning I was still fresh. The message in the four lines, composed impromptu, was important for me. During the night, I could read a special meaning into them.

[A] All professionals care more for honor than for monetary reward.

[B] But they neglect life, their own lives and those around them. They may tend to be oblivious to humanness or the human element, while engaged in their profession.

[C] In their pursuit of perfection, they tend to regard others as less knowledgeable, hence, less worthy. They then become unmindful of the mission of life on this planet, viz., to realize the Self that is beyond the senses, the mind and the intellect.

[D] Their narrow pursuits often result in pride and frustration. Then, ego rides over them. The word **freedom** is pertinent.

Swami has emphasized it in His discourses to students, *Students claim they are free, or they deserve freedom*. Swami reminds them, *You are not free. You are bonded slaves to your senses. Until that bondage is gotten rid of, you are not free*.

Freedom is to be obtained now. Liberation is understood as something to

be gained at the end of life. Good thoughts are valuable for the individual, and they make precious contributions to the welfare of society. But such good thoughts can be bondage if viewed and pursued rigidly. The aphorisms given in Swami’s style by the professor, seemed, to have a much deeper meaning which can be explored when accepted and lived. And then, fuller meaning may still continue to unfold.

Reading the messages of Swami [1-7 and A-D], they seem to be closely linked. The messages quoted in *Sanathana Sarathi* are aimed at all of humanity. Swami’s main mission is spiritual regeneration of humanity, and the quotations provide a prescription. The individual has to follow these injunctions to help Baba’s mission. These quotations are general and apply to all of the community—businessmen, politicians, scholars and people in all walks of life. The base of the society is the individual.

Baba’s renewed emphasis on students and the young—whom He repeatedly chastises for yielding to the pressures of the world, instead of being steadfast to the values of life—adds meaning to the aphorisms.

In *Sanathana Sarathi*, May 1996, Swami’s address to students on March 31, 1996 is reproduced. The address re-emphasizes the need for students to stand up against the temptations of the world, including jobs with high salaries and dowries that bring wealth in exchange for what Swami calls “sale of the groom.” Baba also tells students to de-

*Later, because of my doubting mind, I called the bookstore. Upon inquiry, the store salesperson on the telephone sounded surprised, and said that he was not aware of such a publication. That deepened the mystery.

fend their reputation and the honor of being students of Swami's institute.

For the individual, Swami's injunction is to keep away from the pitfalls of life—money, fame, sense of identity through thought development, and sense of belonging to persons and objects. These last two, taken together, provide an integrated approach to spiritual growth.

The second group of quotations go deeper. They may seem familiar. Limiting the importance of money is reflected in His teaching of "ceiling on desires." Swami emphasizes self-confidence. That self-confidence would lead to upholding one's honor. That honor should be based on upholding values in one's life. The higher the values, the higher the honor. If

honor becomes pride, it would undermine life itself.

Life is a sacred gift given to us for carrying out the mission dear to Sai. That mission is the thought form which lives beyond the individual's life. The thought would achieve its task if it is unhindered by the individual's attachment. It should be free like air. This meaning of the quote is for living. Each individual can derive meaning according to one's understanding and station in life. It would provide the spiritual awareness to move forward.

I felt as if Swami came in person and delivered the message. My regret is, I realized it too late. Swami, pardon my impertinence.

—Chandrabhas Shah
Boston, Massachusetts

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The Christmas Lesson

Before Christmas, Michael's estranged father called, and got our son all excited about making up a big Christmas list. I was hurt and angry. He hadn't called or spoken to Michael in over two years! He hadn't sent a birthday greeting during that time. Now, just because he had come into a lot of money, he was promising to buy Michael expensive gifts.

I decided to tell my son that we could not afford all those toys; they could not go on that list! But it just didn't feel right inside. Something was wrong.

An hour later, a friend called to complain about his divorce. He had made a generous offer, including many extra activities for his children. Yet, his wife had encouraged the children to ask for more—something that was not characteristic of the children.

I saw not a very pretty picture of myself in that conversation which was, no doubt, our dear Sai whispering in my ear. However, being one who doesn't always pick up on the "whispers," I rationalized that my situation was different, because this man gave his children a lot of love and attention as well as "things." Yet, the nagging feeling remained that there was something wrong. The Lord was not letting me off the hook!

I kept asking Baba to give me the answer; I even discussed the situation with other Sai devotees. Still, I had not found the spiritually correct solution.

Then one night, as I was talking to my former mother-in-law, a woman whose spiritual wisdom and down-to-earth practicality had guided me in the past, the answer came. She pointed out that I was making Michael's father a hero

by letting him buy all those expensive gifts for our son, and denigrating my relationship with Michael because I could not buy those things.

As I thought about all she had said, I clearly saw Sai's hand at work. To let Michael have all the presents was clearly contrary to developing a "ceiling on desires" in my child. Further, I would be giving him the unspoken message that money, and what people can give you, is more important than how those people treat you. My son would learn that both he and his mother were "for sale" which would lead to all kinds of painful experiences for the rest of his life. This would give him a value about money that is totally contrary to Swami's teachings. It would make the love between my son and me, as well as all other relationships in his life, seem less important than the gifts or money a person had to give.

I explained to Michael that we could not ask his father for all those expensive Christmas presents. I told him that it is the relationship we have with those whom we love that is most important. His relationship with his father would have to be based on their day to day expressions of love and caring, not on what he could buy. Michael said, "Like the relationship between you and me, Mom?" He jumped up, and gave me a hug and a kiss.

Then, we picked out a gift that was financially in line. When his father called again, Michael told him what he wanted.

My heart was finally at peace. I had learned that the right action spiritually is also the right action in the world.

—Marcia Miller, Illinois, USA

The Gift

*If God told me the world was mine,
And I could pick and choose.
I wonder what I'd throw away,
And what I'd keep to use?*

*Would splendid homes and priceless art
Then seem the most appealing?
Or maybe, costly diamonds bright,
Their sparkling wealth revealing?*

*"Before you choose, give this a thought,"
My soul spoke softly to me,
"Think what will fade and what will last
All through eternity.*

*"This world was made with grander plans.
It is the Lord's endeavor
That perfect peace and harmony
Will somehow last forever.*

*"If everyone would make the choice
Of selfless love for all,
There'd be a heaven here on earth,
And joy beyond recall."*

*With thankful heart, I recognized
The truth He gave to me,
And promised I would choose that love
With deep humility.*

You must be thinking about the gift you have to offer Swami on this birthday. You can be happy that you have given Swami a proper gift only when you love your fellow human beings, share their suffering, and engage yourselves in serving them. That is the only gift I wish for. The present given to God has to be pure, steady and selfless love. On this birthday, I have only one desire: I want only to promote your bliss.



—Alora M. Knight
Gardnerville, Nevada

—Sathya Sai Baba

From a Discourse, November 23, 1982

Swami's Perfect Timing

Swami's timing is always perfect. It used to be that I could only see that in retrospect. Lately, with Swami's grace, I've been able to experience this truth more as it happens. We've been to see Swami several times now, and we've usually had the good fortune of receiving His *darshan* (to see a holy being) at both Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan. Each trip was wonderful, although it was often only in hindsight that we could appreciate the deeper meaning and perfect timing of the events we experienced. In our own way, we each experienced moments of wonder, joy, bliss and love. Of course, these moments were often interspersed with wrenching episodes of anger, grief, conflict and deep introspection. Through it all, Sathya Sai Baba graced us with exactly what we needed at exactly the perfect time.

I say, we, because my wife, Brie, and I have always traveled together to see Swami. We first went to see Him as mere acquaintances. However, on our second trip, Swami, in His infinite wisdom and love, expressed a different notion about the nature of our relationship. He blessed us in marriage and with the help of His grace, we have continued to grow individually and as a couple. Looking back, we both realized that Swami's timing was precisely correct. He could not have joined us together in marriage a moment sooner. I know I wasn't ready; I resisted in subtle ways. However, He knew we had embraced each other on inner levels, and that my personality would respond with the help of His love.

On one of our trips to India, in May

and June 1992, during the Summer Course at Brindavan, my experience was somewhat different. The crowds and itinerary for the Summer Course dictated a different routine from what we had known before. Baba was not showing me much attention on the outer level, but on the inner level I experienced tranquility and love. I felt completely tolerant, at one with my surroundings, and full of love for my wife and everyone around me.

During one *darshan*, I was near the front row and feeling a little dejected from my perceived lack of attention by Swami. Again, He walked by my section without even a glance in my direction. My heart ached, and I felt a little separated from life. He was a good twenty feet away and moving on to the next section. I pleaded silently, "Swami, will you just acknowledge me with a glance." Before I could end my plea, His head turned, and He looked directly at me as if to say that there was no separation. Then, just as quickly, He turned and continued His divine *darshan*. The timing of that one small acknowledgement bolstered my faith and lifted my spirits.

My wife and I were both getting the feeling that our trip should end with the conclusion of the three week summer course, so we made reservations for our departure. At the same time, it was rumored that, although Swami would be staying at Brindavan for another month, He would leave shortly for a quick trip to Prasanthi Nilayam. Apparently, He would be gone only a few days to supervise some construction activities. Our

minds wavered, should we follow Him if He goes, or should we stick with our plans? We searched deeply and it seemed clear we should depart India on schedule. We were a little sad about that but accepted it. It was Saturday morning *darshan*, and the rumors were even more pronounced that He would be leaving by midday. Our departure was scheduled for the next day. After *darshan*, we said our goodbyes to some old and some new friends. One of our new friends said that he would not be riding in the taxi back to Bangalore with us. He also said that he would call us at the hotel if, for some reason, Swami did not leave as had been expected.

Back at the hotel, I decided to rest in the room. Feeling motivated to meditate, I quickly went into a peaceful state and immediately felt Swami's presence. After sharing some meaningful issues, I perceived a message from Him indicating that He was leaving for Prasanthi

Nilayam for just a few days. He had graced me with a lot of specific information, and yet my mind was somewhat doubtful as to whether I was really hearing Him clearly. Inwardly, I said, "Swami, I know you've physically told me in the past not to doubt that you're always with me, but could you just give me some outward confirmation that I'm hearing you clearly now?"

Ring, ring—my deep meditation was interrupted by the phone in our room. It was our good friend from the ashram. He said, "I felt a strong urge to tell you that Swami's car just pulled out to leave for Prasanthi Nilayam." He continued, "I hope I'm not disturbing you." I said, "No, and the timing of your call is absolutely faultless with more meaning than you could know." Once more, Swami's timing was perfect. One day, I won't ever feel the need to doubt that.

—Francis Wilkinson
Ojai, California

Having come to this place and availed yourselves of this opportunity, treasure in your hearts the things you have seen and heard, resolve to plunge into practicing them. Your resolution and your practice must happen simultaneously. Have a master plan and start from tomorrow the execution of the program.

—Sathya Sai Baba
From a Discourse November 11, 1982

Outside, the vibrations are worldly vibrations. There you can easily get into bad company and become involved in contacts which will be harmful to you spiritually. Make the best use of the spiritual atmosphere, the supreme peace and the divine vibrations that are here in Prasanthi Nilayam. Please avoid any connections, particularly with strangers. Let the only connection be the loving connection that you wish to develop between Sai and yourself. That is the direct connection; Sai has no ambassadors. Yearning for that direct connection, heart to heart, is true devotion.

—Sathya Sai Baba
From a Discourse August 5, 1988

Sai's Message

For Change and Transformation

Without giving up tamasic (dull, lethargic, wavering) qualities how can one expect to become spiritual? Without giving up rajasic (actions, desires) qualities, how can one expect to be a pious person? Satwic (pure, calm) qualities are to be cultivated for the sake of devotion and to become pious.

Listen to this advice

The visible world is filled with these three *gunas* (attributes or qualities). Every human form is a combination of these three qualities. If so, how can a person—who is the form of these three attributes and who lives in this world full of these three qualities—grow beyond them? If a person recognizes the bad and the good that are in these three qualities, he or she can grow beyond these *gunas*, and become spiritually minded. For an ordinary person, all three qualities are necessary. As long as one lives in this world, one cannot give up sleep, food, action, thinking, planning and desires. Dullness, sleep, wavering, etc., are *tamasic gunas*. Humans cannot live even for a moment without being possessed by *rajasic gunas*. Actions and desires come under *rajasic gunas*. Even the desire to earn God's grace is a *rajasic* quality.

But pious and good desires are considered helpful on the spiritual path, rather than desires for worldly pleasures. Though desires vary, the nature of desire is only one. Pious and sacred qualities will enter one's mind only when one completely gets rid of the dull and emotional qualities. But even with these two *gunas* [*tamasic* and *rajasic*], you will find a trace of the pious hidden as an undercurrent. The sacred Saraswathi River is

flowing, unseen, as an undercurrent into the Ganges and Yamuna Rivers. When one observes these two *gunas*, one will realize and come to know what kind of *satwic guna* lies hidden as the undercurrent. In fact, *tamasic* and *rajasic gunas* help one to acquire the more pious *satwic gunas*.

An Example

Ratnakara was a thief and a hunter, full of a *tamasic* nature. He had no compassion or love for any creature; he was wicked and cruel to all. He robbed travelers going through the forest, and troubled the sages who lived there. But there was a trace of pious quality which made him listen to and obey seven great sages who came to him.

The seven sages met Ratnakara and, with love and kindness, they explained to him the consequences of his wicked nature. They advised him to give up his cruel ways and resort to the *satwic*, pure and pious path. The sages told Ratnakara that God is the only basis of this world and all of creation, and that he should always think of God and chant God's name with a pure heart. Then, finally, God would bless him. The contact and advice of the sages completely transformed this man from his *tamasic* nature into the great saint, Valmiki, who

gave us the sacred text about Lord Rama.

Valmiki's composition, the *Ramayana*, is of a divine nature, so he is called a *kavi*. A *kavi* is one who knows his innate nature in past, present and future times.

Now, due to the effect of the *kali yuga* (an age of great strife, this present time), people who pen a few lines of their imagination call themselves *kavis*. This is not correct. Sages like Vyasa and Valmiki, due to the power of their penance, came to realize the divinity which is beyond all attributes, and they became divine composers. Ratnakara, who was a totally wicked man, later became a totally divine composer.

What is the reason for this? The effect of good company and hearing the noble advice of the sages, transformed Ratnakara into a great saint. Listening to elders and hearing divine discourses will surely help one to cultivate *satwic* quality to become godly and pious.

Another Example

Anger, hatred, jealousy, pride and pomp are of a *rajasic* nature. Sage Vishwamitra was one who possessed these *rajasic* qualities; but, even Vishwamitra, later became a great sage. Sage Vishwamitra spent all his early life chasing after name and fame. For some reason, he hated and was jealous of sage Vasishtha.



We are grateful that Sai has taken a human birth, so that we may see Him, know Him and learn from Him.

Vasishta had criticized Vishwamitra. His hatred toward Vasishta grew to such an extent that he determined to kill Vasishta. He took a knife and went to Vasishta's hermitage. Vishwamitra hid himself behind a bush waiting for just the right moment.

At that time, sage Vasishta and his wife were sitting in the open courtyard,

conversing. Vasishta's wife, seeing the full moon's beauty and its coolness, told her husband that the full moon was very beautiful and pleasant. Sage Vasishta agreed, and said that the beauty of the full moon was like the beauty and power of sage Vishwamitra's penance.

On hearing those nectar-like words, full of love from Vasishta, sage Vishwamitra was shocked. In a moment he realized the noble qualities of Vasishta, and even cursed himself for having been jealous of the pure-hearted Vasishta. He atoned, threw away the knife, ran and fell at the feet of Vasishta.

Without even looking at the face of the person at his feet, Vasishta addressed Vishwamitra as *Brahmarishi* (one who is attached only to God), and blessed him. "Oh *Brahmarishi*, get up."

Before that time, Vasishta was addressing Vishwamitra as *Rajarishi* (King). Before becoming a saint, Vishwamitra was a king by the name of Kaushika. The transformed *rishi*, Vishwamitra, asked Vasishta why he then called him a *Brahmarishi*? Vasishta replied that until that moment, he was full of pride and ego. But, he had given up his ego and placed his head at Vasishta's feet, so he was fit to be addressed as *Brahmarishi*.

Transformation

Anyone who is completely egoless is, in fact, a *Brahmarishi*. Do not become weak thinking that you cannot change your *tamasic* and *rajasic* natures and become good and pious. No one knows when, how or where God will shower His grace on anyone. God's grace is the cause of everything. Even *tamasic* qualities can, straightaway, become *satwic*.

By God's grace only, Ratnakara who

had a totally *tamasic*, wicked nature, was transformed and became a *satwic* person. Due to God's grace, Ratnakara was fortunate enough to have the good company of the seven sages; and, by listening to their advice, he became the great, renowned *kavi*, Sage Valmiki.

Secondly, Vishwamitra was full of a *rajasic* nature. He possessed all the emotional qualities of pride, jealousy and anger. The noble and pure-hearted Vasishta's words and kind behavior toward him completely changed Vishwamitra's nature and transformed him into a *Brahmarishi*, totally egoless.

Righteousness Protects

Everyone is a puppet in the Lord's hand. Everything is the Lord's *leela* (divine play). You should kill the feelings of "I" and "mine." Instead, cultivate the noble virtues—love for God, fear of sin and morality in society. In this modern age, people are killing their *satwic* nature; one's true nature is in fact divine. Today, people are following artificial righteousness, forgetting their own divinity. Nobody can exist without righteousness. Currently, the value of all articles is going up, but the value of human beings is going down. If you kill righteousness, eventually it will kill you. If you follow righteousness, then righteousness will surely protect you forever. You all speak of righteousness but do not practice it in everyday life.

Because Ratnakara practiced what he heard from the great sages, he was blessed by God. So, understand that through God's grace and by practicing noble ideals, a *tamasic* person can become a totally *satwic*.

Also, a totally *rajasic* person can be-

come a great *rishi* like Vishwamitra. Truth, righteousness, forbearance, love, and sympathy are the attributes of the *satwic* quality. There will be no room at anytime for hatred, anger, or jealousy in a person who possesses pious qualities.

Conduct in Prasanthi!?

Swami always talks of the aspects of *prema* (divine love). How many of you really practice this divine love in day to day life? Particularly those who are staying in Prasanthi Nilayam are not behaving in a proper manner. They never speak to others with love and politeness. Swami has never seen one person here who is humble while speaking to others. In Prasanthi Nilayam—whether it is in the temple, the canteen, the colleges, the hospital, shops or offices—no one speaks lovingly and politely to newcomers. When newcomers to the ashram ask the residents about the timings of Swami's *darshan*, etc., you people reply in a harsh tone, saying that you don't know anything, and you turn them away. What does one lose if one speaks kindly toward the newcomers and instruct them? If you don't want to talk, tell them politely that Baba has said not to talk too much. Of course, you do not want to gossip.

Though many people have stayed in the ashram for 30 or 40 years and have heard numerous discourses, still they haven't changed a bit in their behavior. Not an iota of love and compassion is seen in their talk or conduct. Why should they come here to listen to Swami's talks? Is there no other place where they can stay and talk? The so-called educated persons come and sit in the front lines for *darshans* and discourses, but they

behave in a shameful manner. Having no compassion has become fashionable.

Teachers and students should behave in an exemplary way and set examples for others. Doctors should speak very kindly to the patients. Kind words and compassion cure the patient's illness more than medicine.

Correct Our Conduct

Oh embodiments of love, from today resolve to give up bad habits and beastly qualities. Try to conduct yourselves in a pleasing and loving manner. Try to prove yourselves to be human beings and Swami's devotees.

You cannot oblige all but at least speak obligingly. Worshiping God but hurting others is very bad. It is equal to cheating God and one's own self. You beat the bullocks that toil, but worship Nandi, the stone bull; that is foolishness.

To cultivate human values and shine as real humans, cut short your talking, put limits on your desires and actions. Always remind yourself, "I am a human; I am not a beast; I am a human; I am not a devil."

Then, develop human qualities like divine love and compassion. Lead a life of pure love and service to mankind. Nowadays, some culture and refinement are found in villages, but refinement is completely forgotten in cities. Instead, cities are full of various kinds of conflicts. Practice the ideals and teachings you hear daily. Love all and serve all. The path of love is the only smooth way to become real human beings and reach the divine level. Live in love and enjoy bliss and peace.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Divine Discourse, July 3, 1996

We Get Letters

Swami's description of the ashram residents on page 21 may seem a bit harsh, however, the message is quite clear. It seems that devotees everywhere need to reevaluate their actions toward others.

Over the years, the *Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA* has received letters from disgruntled followers and potential devotees who, for various reasons, have become disenchanted with what they have seen and experienced. The following are excerpted from those letters, and some possible solutions are offered for consideration.

Potential Problems

"At one of our meetings, we were ruminating about the question of how best to make the benefits of Baba's presence here on earth available to westerners like ourselves. We were asked specifically for views on:

To what extent the Indian cultural trappings may be an impediment to people here in America who might be inclined to take those first few steps toward Baba when they hear about Him?

"While there is certainly nothing wrong with an Indian devotional atmosphere, it is not one a westerner can step into and feel immediately at home. On the contrary, I feel that many people would be distracted by such a milieu and might easily fail to recognize the universality of Baba's teachings and the relevance of His work to their own deepest concerns.

"In contrast [at a devotee's home], we have had wonderful talks, a congenial atmosphere, the shared experiences of westerners, and a clear introduction to the meaning of Baba's presence for all people. In addition, we have been treated to charming stories of interactions with Baba, a bit of history, and excellent parables drawn from Baba's

lectures and writings. In this beguiling atmosphere, people feel free to ask questions, express doubts, make comparisons, and probe those ideas which seem paradoxical or enigmatic. This atmosphere is highly invitational, perhaps because there is no pressure to 'group think' or to enter into practices that are foreign.

"What a pity to be turned off by certain aspects [of rituals and practices] and miss all the sweetness and comfort that can be drawn from the essential message of Sathya Sai Baba which addresses the universal yearning for the elusive answers to the fundamental questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?"

—Anonymous

Possible Solutions

If you are taking a friend to a Sathya Sai Baba Center or a Sai Retreat for the first time, explain to them before you arrive what the atmosphere is like, and the meaning of some of the rituals.

If guests arrive at a Sai Center unannounced, have a volunteer to greet them, ask if they have any questions, introduce them to the group. Also, taking them aside for a short orientation has worked well when my husband and I had center meetings in our home.

For goodness sake, don't just hand them a piece of paper with these explanations written out. The printed page is fine, but have some personal contact with that individual who yearns to know more about Sai Baba.

Baba says that we are *Embodiments of Divine Love*, so it behooves us to live up to that title. Each of us can do small things like: making eye contact, smiling, showing Sai's guests that we are glad to see them, and we hope that they return.

Make up your own list of how to treat guests. It will probably be better than these suggestions. And remember, a display of friendship does not take away from our own devotional activities, in fact, a little divine love should enhance our spiritual activity (*sadhana*).

—Editor

Another person sharing concerns writes to us:

Potential Problems

"There is one thing that has always bothered me. I have only been able to attend four Sai Baba Retreats. Each time I go with the anticipation of finding warmth lovingly expressed by all who go there. It's true, I find it, but in such small proportion compared to the number of people attending. There are so many who show little or no emotion at all. I tell myself that those people are there because of their love for Sathya Sai Baba but, I want to get up and say, 'Let your love for Sai Baba be released to those who are around you; don't sit there with unsmiling faces.'"

"At first I thought that I was amiss, so I wholeheartedly tried to meet their

eyes and smile, and if possible, strike up a conversation about Sai Baba. I have met with some success, but I still am surprised that there are those who show no warmth. I wonder if there is some way to reach those people, and let them know how much happiness there is in sharing? No one should impose themselves on another's privacy, but I feel they are missing a great deal."

—Anonymous

Possible Solutions

All of us "old-timers" enjoy going to retreats, public meetings, etc. There is the anticipation of hearing Baba stories, singing, chanting and praying together. Another plus is the prospect of seeing our friends, our Sai sisters and brothers. It's all so uplifting, but what of the newcomers who have the same expectations, but don't know anybody?

What about forgoing our own desire to meet and be with an old friend, and go off with them for a friendly chat? Instead of such self-concern, how about spending at least some time meeting and greeting someone whom we have never seen before, someone whom we know to be a newcomer? If they wish to be alone, fine; but at least, we have made the effort to show some interest and warmth.

Baba has told us, *They will know me by my devotees*. Are we trying to do as good a job as we might to deserve to be called, "devotees," representatives of the Lord of the Universe? Swami also admonishes us, saying, *Don't try. Do!*

I know that from this day on, I shall try less and do more.

—Compiled by the Editor



Baba's Description of Baba

Because You have taken human form, November 23, 1926, the devotees of the USA wish You, Bhagavan, a "Happy Birthday." We all know that the Lord has no birth nor death, but we wish to express our joy by shouting, "Baba, we love You! We are eternally grateful for the privilege of knowing You. The world is better because You are here, and we rejoice in Your Glory."

—Your Devotees

The flowers, the needle and thread are there, but can they become a garland? No. There must be someone to put them together. You have education, knowledge and intellect, but do you have wisdom? Though there is intelligence in your head, you must have a teacher to attain spiritual wisdom. So, Sai is with you to reveal what is true, what is *Brahman* (Universal Absolute), what is eternal, what is fleeting, what is transient.

Bhagavan Baba is declaring His own truth today. You have not learned even a fraction of this nature. Nobody can understand that Sai is a man among men; He is a woman among women; He is a child among children; and when alone, He is God. This is the truth of Sai, because He should be appropriate to the company which He is in.

When old people play with toys, children will make fun of them. When a youngster walks with a walking stick, elders will laugh at him. So, old people should walk with canes; children should play with toys. When among children, Sai has all the playfulness of a child. Likewise, many have the deep yearning for the Vedanta which He teaches. He teaches the code of conduct to householders. He teaches appropriate behavior for each stage of life. Why all this? It is to assure you that all is in Swami, and with Swami. It is your good fortune that you could

know of Him. Such good fortune was not available at any other time in history.

Actually, if you follow all that Sai teaches, you can redeem your life. In the days to follow, everyone—even the blind and the ignorant—will declare that Swami is God (everyone cheered).

But because of illusion that gets into the mind, one becomes disturbed. Never succumb to the test of illusion. Accept and win the test of God. Then the **test** of God will transform the **taste** in our lives. Immerse yourself in love. More than penance, chanting or meditation love is most important.

God will never take into consideration how much clothing you have distributed, how much food you have served, etc. Sai will never consider the bags of rice you have distributed nor the items of clothing; it is better to show that to the income tax officer. But what you should offer to God is your feeling of love. Even if you have served just a little, He is not bothered about the quantity; He will see the quality. Swami wants quality, even though the quantity may be a small fraction. . . .

So, give up all your mental defects, kill the ego totally. Then, develop the spirit of surrender and love of God. Only then, will you have the good fortune of enjoying bliss.

—Sathya Sai Baba

From a Discourse July 31, 1996

Children's Corner

My Own Story

I would like to tell about Baba in my life, and how the *Bal Vikas* (now called, Sathya Sai Spiritual Education) has taught me many things concerning Baba's teachings, such as: tests, truth, family, anger, friends and more.

There was a time when I had to take a test in school. I thought that if I asked Baba to help me, I would get a good grade without studying. I felt unsure of the answers and didn't do well on the test. I was confused and didn't know what went wrong. But, after thinking about it, I realized that first I must study, then Baba would help me. Only when I do my part and leave it to Baba, then He will take care of the outcome.

There was an exercise in *Bal Vikas* class, where we talked about lying. We talked about white lies and black lies. We took a glass of water and put a flashlight under the glass. The flashlight represented our inner light, and the water our conscience. We took a drop of coloring and put it into the glass, which represented telling a lie. We also decided that when we told one lie, we had to tell many other lies to cover the first one. Finally, the light—our inner light—was dim, and the water—our conscience—was dirty and impure because of the lies.

Another great thing I learned is how to deal with anger. I know that we all get angry sometimes. I learned not to use violence to solve my disagreements.

I have a younger sister, and we get into a lot of arguments. So, I try to take "time out" and say to myself, "Is this



worth fighting over?" or "Wait a minute!" Some of the other things I do to release the anger are to ride my bike, sit down and think, take deep breaths, blow out the anger and breathe in the good.

I went with my classmates from school to a camp for outdoor education. There was a lot of pressure to do things which I knew were wrong, so I was assertive and said, "No," and I felt good.

To me, assertive means to not be afraid to refuse something that is wrong.

At that time, the emphasis in *Bal Vikas* was on the environment, and how we must protect it. When I'm out in nature, I can almost feel Baba's presence—in the trees, in the wind and in the earth itself. We planted trees and cleaned up beaches to do our part.

That reminded me of the "Lion King." If you've ever seen the movie, you know the philosophy that everything is part of the circle of life.

I've learned to recite a lot of prayers, not just when I need help but to give thanks. These prayers help me to feel safe and focused, and I make it a point to say them everyday. That way, I have a fixed time and routine. It makes me feel closer to God. I usually say them at night before bed. It helps me to quiet down and sleep better.

Baba is very important in my life. I've learned so many things from Him, and I wish that everyone could get to know Him just like I do.

—Mahima Raghav

Age 12 at the time of this writing
Bal Vikas, Group II, Tustin, California

Swami's Puppet

On my trip to India in December 1994, Swami gave me the wonderful experience of knowing that He was in control, not me. Although I am usually a rather compulsive person, for five days I was His "puppet."

My husband and I arrived at Prasanthi Nilayam the last day of November, after a very rough trip that included plane delays, my two suitcases being slit open and extreme exhaustion. We could not get into our room at the ashram, there was a new lock on the door. However, no one, not even the accommodations office, knew who was living there. After a few hours waiting in the scorching heat, the lock was broken only to find that no one was living there, except a few rodents! I did not accept this greeting with equanimity. I became further stressed and came down with a cold and bronchitis that lasted three weeks. Illness, sleepless nights and total exhaustion were how the first three weeks of my trip began.

In Prasanthi Nilayam, it has become a tradition at Christmas for overseas children to present a play for Swami and the devotees. This is a sacred time for many foreign devotees. Because so many of them are at the ashram during the holiday season, Swami gives them the opportunity to show their love for Him, whether it be with the Christmas play, the choir, or as a singer in the large chorus. The big choir of over 400 people sing Christmas carols and songs from various countries around the world. They are sung to Swami during a special afternoon *darshan* on December 24th.

The week before Christmas, I was asked by the author of the play if I would be in charge of the smaller choir. "Yes," I said, "but I am not a schooled musician and cannot conduct the choir. I will help find a conductor, get the singers and do whatever else is needed."

This was happily accepted. Of course, I wondered where I would get the energy to do this. I prayed to Swami for His help. I thought that in a day I would find a conductor and turn everything over to her or him. No such luck! The first conductor, after one day, decided she didn't want to do it. The second conductor, after one choir rehearsal, was asked to lead the big choir because their conductor had laryngitis. Meanwhile, everyone in the choir for the play knew me as the one person who was always on hand. I had made lots of announcements, led the prayers, and found the rehearsal spaces. So, even when I finally found our third and final conductor, everyone turned to me for help.

At first I resisted this, wanting to be rid of the responsibility and also feeling a need to rest and recuperate from my three-week cold. But one day, it suddenly hit me. Swami has tailor-made this *leela* (God's game) for me; that is why the responsibility remained in my lap.

I recalled 1983, when I had cowritten the music and lyrics to an off Broadway musical and coproduced it. It was a time of immense desire, attachment and pain. I had enjoyed the creative part of writing music and lyrics, but detested the producing. Here was Swami, giving me another chance in "show business."

I had been given the opportunity to work in the right spirit of surrender.

There was also another significant way He tailor-made this play for me. I found myself in the role of saying spontaneous prayers before rehearsals. This was, again, no accident. I had worked as a Pastoral Care Assistant for a hospice in NYC for three years, so I had practice in saying prayers that were appropriate to each person and each situation.

Once I saw how perfect this role was for me, I began to surrender, dedicating everything and every task to Swami. Furthermore, because I had been so sick, I didn't have my usual energy to be compulsive. Somehow, with His grace, whatever I was requested to do was accomplished with only a gentle effort on my part. There was no need for me to get tense; I was experiencing Swami as the Director of the Play.

One morning, I learned that our 4:00 p.m. rehearsal space in Hall 25 was taken over by the large chorus. Instead of running out that moment to find another rehearsal space, I waited, trusting a spot would become available. At *darshan*, I saw the right person to ask and was told we could use the upper floor of the canteen, but that I had to get the keys from Steve, a tall, thin young man whom I did not know. How, I wondered, among all these people, am I going to find a man named Steve? The following hour, I saw a tall, thin young man among many waiting outside the Poornachandra Auditorium and asked, "Are you Steve?" "Yes," he said, "Here are the keys. I was just putting them in my pocket."

A few days before Christmas, we began having rehearsals with the cast in the auditorium. We were concentrating

intensely on singing when, all of a sudden, everything seemed to stop. I couldn't believe it! Our beloved Lord was standing a few feet away from me. "*Singers?*" He asked. "Yes Swami," a few of us replied. Then, He made that beautiful circling gesture with His two hands blessing all of us. "*Sing,*" He said. We were given the opportunity to sing our favorite number in the show for Him. When we finished, there was not a dry eye among us.

After Swami had graced us with this *darshan*, a lovely Italian woman, who was in the choir, came up to me and said, "We must have a chair for Swami, and a table and some water, so He has a place to sit when He comes to watch rehearsals." I knew this was a good idea, but more than that, I knew we were going to have a beautiful chair for Swami. As I left the Poornachandra, I saw the prop man whose wife was making Christmas decorations, and whom I knew would be perfect for fulfilling our requests. I asked him to ask his wife if she could find an appropriate chair for Swami. The next morning before rehearsal—a chair with beautiful white fabric, a small table and fresh flowers—everything was delivered and set up for Swami's next visit.

Although Baba never sat in that chair, He did visit us again. He gave all the women involved in the play white saris, for "purity." He then walked around and chatted with the choir leader, the director, writer and cast. These times with Him felt like an interview.

Every day, a few times a day, I was requested to do various tasks. The first few days, I was shocked every time something worked out. After awhile, I just trusted that everything would work.

He had made me His marionette, and had given me the gift of surrender.

One day, the conductor said to me, "Due to our extra rehearsal today at 1:00 p.m., we may be late for *darshan*. Can you arrange for us to be able to get inside if we're late?" "I will try," I responded. That time, I went directly to the apartment of the head *seva dal* (service volunteer). I was a bit nervous as it was 11:45 a.m., she was off duty and it was lunch and rest time. However, she received me warmly and offered to save a block of space for 54 women who were in the smaller choir.

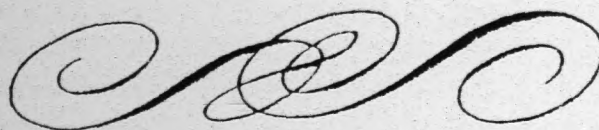
On the last day of rehearsal, someone rushed up to me in a frenzy and said, "No one is taking pictures of the Christ-

mas play. The Indian photographers are not going to film it." Just then, I walked Arthur Hillcoate, who was in charge of the Christmas program. I told him about this concern. He said that he would see to this himself, and of course the play was photographed.

I could go on and on, as this kind of thing was happening continually. But the point of all this is that when we surrender, Swami does take care of everything. Of course, it is His grace that we can be His instruments.

Imagine being a puppet for five whole days; that is how we are supposed to be all the time!

—Judy Warner Scher
Faber, Virginia



What do we have that we can surrender? Everything, our lives, our possessions, our abilities are His anyway. All that we possess is desire that binds us to the wheel of rebirth. What have we gained from our headlong plunge into worldliness? Has it resulted in greater peace? What have we acquired that will not be taken away by Yama (the god of death)?

Acceptance of divine will is surrender. It is renunciation of the illusion of separateness, the abandonment of the ego that says, "This is mine." Our attachments and desires for material acquisitions and emotional satisfaction must be released. It is natural for the mind to seek happiness outside of itself—with objects, places and people—anywhere but inner Self-sufficiency.

Life is happier when we leave the results to God. Let Him give us success or failure. What does it matter? Who are we to judge? When we discard all our desires and attachments and live in the present, we become free from fears and anxieties and allow Divinity to shine through. Our only duty is to play our part well; the results are not our burden to carry.

—Sathya Sai Baba
From a Discourse, July 1996

What's Up in the Sai Organization?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sai Ram! Speaking to a group of His students, Swami explained the acceleration of His mission in the following way:

When an airplane is about to take off, it must first approach the runway. When it reaches the runway, it must make a full turn in order to face the direction of takeoff. This turn is navigated slowly by the aircraft. After the turn has been completed, the airplane receives a signal from the tower and begins to accelerate rapidly for take-off. When the craft has reached sufficient velocity, it leaves the ground. Swami's mission has made this turn to face the runway. The 70th birthday was the signal from the tower to accelerate. In the 75th birthday, the airplane will leave the ground.

We are witnessing the rapid and phenomenal changes initiated by Baba. He is transforming the world and making it possible for us to transform ourselves. Through our faith and perseverance, we can experience spiritual transformation in our lives.

Daily Divine Discourses

In June, Sathya Sai Baba announced that He would give daily divine discourses each afternoon for one year. He explained that these discourses should be regarded by all devotees as interviews with Swami. All discourses are being recorded and will be made available as soon as possible.

Mahasivarathri in Prasanthi, Unity and Discipline are Rewarded

During *Mahasivarathri*, February 1996, a meeting was convened with the U.S. Sai devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam. The group consisted of approximately 80 people; they were divided into four smaller groups, each with a group leader. Arrangements were made for the leader to have favorable seating in *darshan*, and the members of each group to sit together near the leader. On the first *darshan*, Swami took one of the groups from the U.S. in for an interview. Subsequently, over the next few weeks, Swami took in all of the groups.

To better serve devotees, the USA Central Council will establish a system in Prasanthi Nilayam to encourage the formation of such groups. We believe that this will assist those who choose to join to better achieve the devotional purpose of their trip. Each group will wear its own identifying symbol in conjunction with the American scarf. Group members will line up together and sit together in *darshan*. They will meet together and practice discipline, harmony and oneness. This plan will begin at birthday and continue throughout the year whenever there are significant numbers of American devotees present. After November 23, 1996 if you wish to form or join a group, please call the Sathya Sai Book Center at (714) 669-0522."

—Submitted by the Past President, USA Central Council

Western Medical Clinic Continues

A medical clinic in Prasanthi was facilitated by volunteer doctors and nurses and was successfully implemented last November during the 70th birthday, and last July during *Guru Poornima*. Baba has graciously given His consent to continue the medical camp for the forthcoming 71st birthday. R. S. Prasad, M.D. will once again be Medical Director, and Barbara Mofield, R.N. will once again be Director of Nurses.

Doctors wishing to volunteer may contact:

Raghavendra S. Prasad, M.D., 1923 Greenwood Oaks Drive, Houston, Texas 77062, USA, phone: (713) 480-1505, fax: (713) 480-2250, E-Mail: Prasad RS@aol.com

Nurses wishing to volunteer may contact:

Barbara Mofield, R.N., 564 W. Saugerties Road, Saugerties, New York 12477, USA, phone: (914) 246-1679

International Coordinators Meeting at Prasanthi

This past July, during *Guru Poornima*, the Central Coordinators of the International Sai Organization met, and a number of issues were discussed:

1. The New Sarva Dharma Symbol

After the 70th birthday, Swami approved the new symbol using the five values instead of the religious symbols. (See the cover of this issue).

The symbol will be legally protected in all countries according to the laws of that nation. It will be available for official use only by the Sai Organization, and it should not be used on personal stationery. This will be the international understanding.

2. Cultural Drama During 1996 Birthday Celebrations

Six international regions, including the USA, India, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Orient will each put on a 15 minute drama depicting the noble ideals upon which their respective societies and cultures have been built. Mr. Hal Honig of New York has written and will direct a play on Abraham Lincoln for this occasion.

3. Young Adults' International Conference in 1997

There will be an International Conference of Young Adults from the Sai Organizations throughout the world which will convene in Prasanthi Nilayam preceding *Guru Poornima*, July 1997. Young adults who wish to become part of this group or who have ideas for the agenda, contact the Young Adults' Chairman: Dr. William Harvey, 530 N. Union Blvd., Apt 802, St. Louis, Missouri 63108 or call:

- Bill Harvey for the Middle U.S.....ph. (314) 367-7180.....fax (314) 367-1198
- Hal Honig for the Eastern U.S.....ph. (212) 245-5799
- Phyllis Krystal for Western U.S.....ph. (310) 476-4078.....fax (310) 471-0126

4. Sathya Sai Organization Home Page

The International Coordinators approved the formation of a committee including Dr. Bill Harvey and Dr. David Gries, along with others, who will develop an official Home Page on the WWW (World Wide Web). Initially, the Home Page will present a brief message about Swami's life, His message, His mission and the Sathya

Sai Organization. It will be uniform worldwide and in the appropriate language of that country, and will comply with local laws and situations.

U.S. Sathya Sai Baba Organization 1996, Year of Truth

There have been many spiritually beneficial and uplifting events conducted in the USA during 1996, the Year of Truth:

1. Public meetings in New York and Los Angeles

As a result of Swami's specific instructions to hold meetings for the public, two were held this year: one in New York City at the Town Hall, and one in Los Angeles at the Wilshire Ebell Theater. Justice Bhagavati, India's representative to the United Nations, was the principal speaker, and Maynard Ferguson, world renowned musician, spoke and performed with his orchestra. The faces of the people reflected the good thoughts and feelings of the event.

As Baba advocates, no admission was charged. Both theaters were filled to capacity. As long as we focus is on Sathya Sai Baba's message and His mission, we can't go wrong.

2. Leadership Workshops

With Swami's blessings, General and Dr. (Mrs.) Chibber conducted a series of workshops on leadership, primarily for young adults, in various countries. In the U.S., between May and August, the Sai Organization sponsored Regional Young Adult Workshops with the Chibbers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Albany and in the state of New Jersey. The workshops were based on the General's book, *Sai Baba's Mahavakya on Leadership*.^{*} An excellent precedent was established by the Chibbers; they required that the participants prepare in advance by fulfilling certain reading assignments and exercises. The scope and caliber of the workshops were of superior quality.

3. Regional Sathya Sai Spiritual Education Teachers' Meetings

Being true to our children and their educational programs, our National Education Coordinator, Berniece Mead, took up the challenge. Between February and August of 1996, she conducted Sathya Sai Spiritual Education workshops for teachers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Phoenix, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, Boston, Miami and the states of New Mexico and New York. What a tour!

She distributed the new USA, *Sai Spiritual Teachers' Manual*,^{*} that had been approved by Swami. She emphasized that Sai's program is spiritual and represents the truth of all religions. Mrs. Mead helped the teachers to understand the essence of the program, and helped parents to understand how they can reinforce the lessons at home, thus living a spiritual life.

4. National Sathya Sai EHV Meeting

On August 25 and 26, a national meeting of teachers and education professionals was held in the Glendale Sai Center in Los Angeles. The speakers were teachers who have been working on the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values program for many years—Bea Flaig, Ronne Marantz and Berniece Mead. In addition, trustees from the Sathya Sai EHV Foundation—Robert Bozzani, Michael Dave and Michael Goldstein

—also addressed the group. The *Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Manual*,* was presented and discussed. Subcommittees were formed to discuss areas of particular concern.

5. Establishment of the 10th U.S. Region for Part of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas

Being true to the organizational needs of Sai Devotees, Drs. Harvey and Goldstein convened in all 9 regions of the USA. Regional challenges were discussed and solutions sought.

Devotees from the states listed above, requested that another region be established to avoid traveling long distances to attend various Sai functions. Hence, the formation of the new Region number 10 with Rick Raines, Regional President.

6. Sathya Sai Central Council Meeting

On October 12 and 13, a meeting of the Sathya Sai Central Council, USA which includes the 10 regional presidents, took place in the Los Angeles area. Regional activities were discussed, a more comprehensive report may be forthcoming.

Swami has said that the divine airplane is now accelerating down the runway. It is time for all of us to recognize that we are traveling on the same flight, to the same destination, for the same purpose. It is time for the Sai Organization to take effective and collective action to contribute to the Divine Mission.

Air Travel

Indian Airlines flights to and from Bombay/Puttaparti, also flights to and from Madras/Puttaparti are **tentatively** scheduled to continue until March 27, 1997.

Excerpted from a Letter/Report by
—Michael G. Goldstein, M.D.

It's Happening Again!

It has once again come to the attention of the *Sathya Sai Newsletter*, USA office that a “chain letter” is being circulated. The letter promises good fortune to those who comply to its suggestions, and bad luck or even hints at disaster to those who do not comply. Sathya Sai Baba, Himself, has repeatedly told devotees to ignore all such communications. It is better that we should put our faith in God. —Editor

The decisions taken by the Sathya Sai Organization should not remain resolutions on paper. They must be put into practice. Everyone of you must live up to the ideals of the organization. Some members transgress the rules. Some others do not live up to the ideals or carry out the programs of the organization. . . . We should not be interested in money, office or position. Our sole aim is to promote love, and all activities should be carried out in a spirit of love for one another. There is no greater source of strength, wealth or position than love.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Discourse at World Conference, November 1980

*All publications mentioned in this report are available at the Sathya Sai Book Center of America. For the address, please turn to page 36.

God's Property

All actions which are performed with the body should be done with the feeling that the body is a temple, and the indweller is the *jiva* or Self. This body is a moving temple, so don't think God is elsewhere. Wherever your body is, there is God. All must recognize the truth that God is within them, outside them, around them and everywhere.

Our "Messengers of Sathya Sai" are doing a great deal of service. Even the women are undertaking difficult tasks with a lot of courage, like building houses, placing rafters, laying roofs, sweeping, whitewashing, etc. They coordinate mass marriages and bear all the expense. Alumni come from various countries like Australia, Germany, Japan, etc. This is living proof of their devotion.

Today, they have come from far-flung countries like America and Argentina, spending a lot of money. I said to the President of the organization, "Why do you spend so much money? Misuse of money is evil. It can be used to help the poor. The rupees that are spent in coming here can be used to help others."

She replied, "Swami, we do not value money. Sacrifice is important to us. We need to recharge the batteries of our hearts. Money comes and goes, but morality comes and grows, so we come here to grow in morality. The money we earn is not ours. We are mere agents or caretakers of this money."

Everyone should know this truth. You are all trustees of your money. You have no right over it. For example, there is a plethora of money in the Reserve Bank of India, or State Bank of India or Canara Bank. Every bank has a manager, a cashier, etc. All the money is under

their control, but they do not have the right to even a paise (penny). So, too, we are like cashiers for the money we earn, but we do not have any authority over it. Everything belongs to God.

You come to earth with empty hands, and you leave with empty hands. No relative or friend comes with you at the time of death. They do not even ask where you are going. When you come to this earth you don't bring even a piece of cloth, and when you leave you do not even leave behind an address. Each person is by himself or herself on the final journey. Relationships exist only as long as you live, so you should have the same relationship with all. Do not hate even bad people. Love all, love even bad people, and they will become good.

Saint Matthew was a tax collector, and he did not have faith in Jesus. He criticized Jesus, but ultimately he became one of the prime disciples. So, we must be prepared to love even people who harm us. Even if others hate us, we must love them. Follow this truth, love all, and God will love you. When you do love all, God will certainly love you. When God loves you, you become the child of God. Once you are the child of God, you have a right to His property. I and you are one. We should aspire for "I and you are one," but today I and you are "we," and not one. Develop the understanding that we and we are one. If you differentiate between mine and thine, how can you attain oneness? There should be unity between the two. Such a feeling of love should be cultivated.

Achieving Freedom

The women of "Messengers of Sathya Sai" have rendered very good service.

In fact, they face many problems. They do not have independence. Soon after marriage, they are in the hands of their in-laws and husband. They have to bow down their heads and obey them. They cannot act contrary to their wishes. But even under such circumstances, they bring their husbands from foreign lands. That is true service. They transform even those who are not devotees into devotees. Why else would any husband send his wife from far off Argentina to Puttaparthi, spending a great deal of money? Consequently, they too, have developed a broad-mindedness.

But, young men lead the lives of slaves in spite of being independent. They have no obstacles, no mother-in-law or father-in-law or parent to obstruct them. Yet, they are not exercising their will properly, so that they too, could become independent and free.

What is true freedom? It is not roaming the bazaars as you like, nor living as you please. *Swatantra* or freedom is: "*swa*," which means *Atma* (the divinity within or Self), and "*tantra*," which means technique or means. You should proceed along the path of *Atma*. Develop the *Atmic* feeling. Develop broad, all-encompassing feelings. That is genuine independence and freedom.

Today, we are independent, but we are not able to accept our responsibilities along with our rights. What is the use of independence if we have no unity? Independence without unity will cause trouble, so unity is a must. People must move together in love and affec-

tion. We must progress together. We must learn together and share our knowledge. Move together without conflict or disharmony. Togetherness should be experienced by everyone. When there is love, togetherness will grow.

The Message

The important message which I want to convey today, which Jesus also propagated, is one of love and compassion. So boys and girls, on this holy and sacred day, when we celebrate the birthday of

that holy personage, Jesus, we must conduct ourselves in accordance with His message. It is easy to celebrate birthdays, but we must also keep in mind the purity and

message of the person whose birthday we celebrate.

We also make much of Rama's birthday, but do we obey the command of our father as Rama did? Do we give up everything for the sake of truth? Rama, who was about to be crowned, renounced the kingdom without a backward glance and went into exile. Having every right to the kingdom, He did not desire it. Today, though you have no right, you expect everything. How then can you call yourselves devotees of Rama? You must follow the ideals of Rama.

If you are devotees of Sai, what are the ideals of Sai?

- Share love
- Be united
- Consider all to be children of God
- Foster the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.

*"Happiness will come
in the same measure
as your love for God."*

•Let anyone say anything, but do not hate them

•Believe that everything happens for one's own good

•Do not hate anybody

•Do not accuse or criticize anyone

•Do not hurt anyone.

•The more you are criticized, the happier you should become

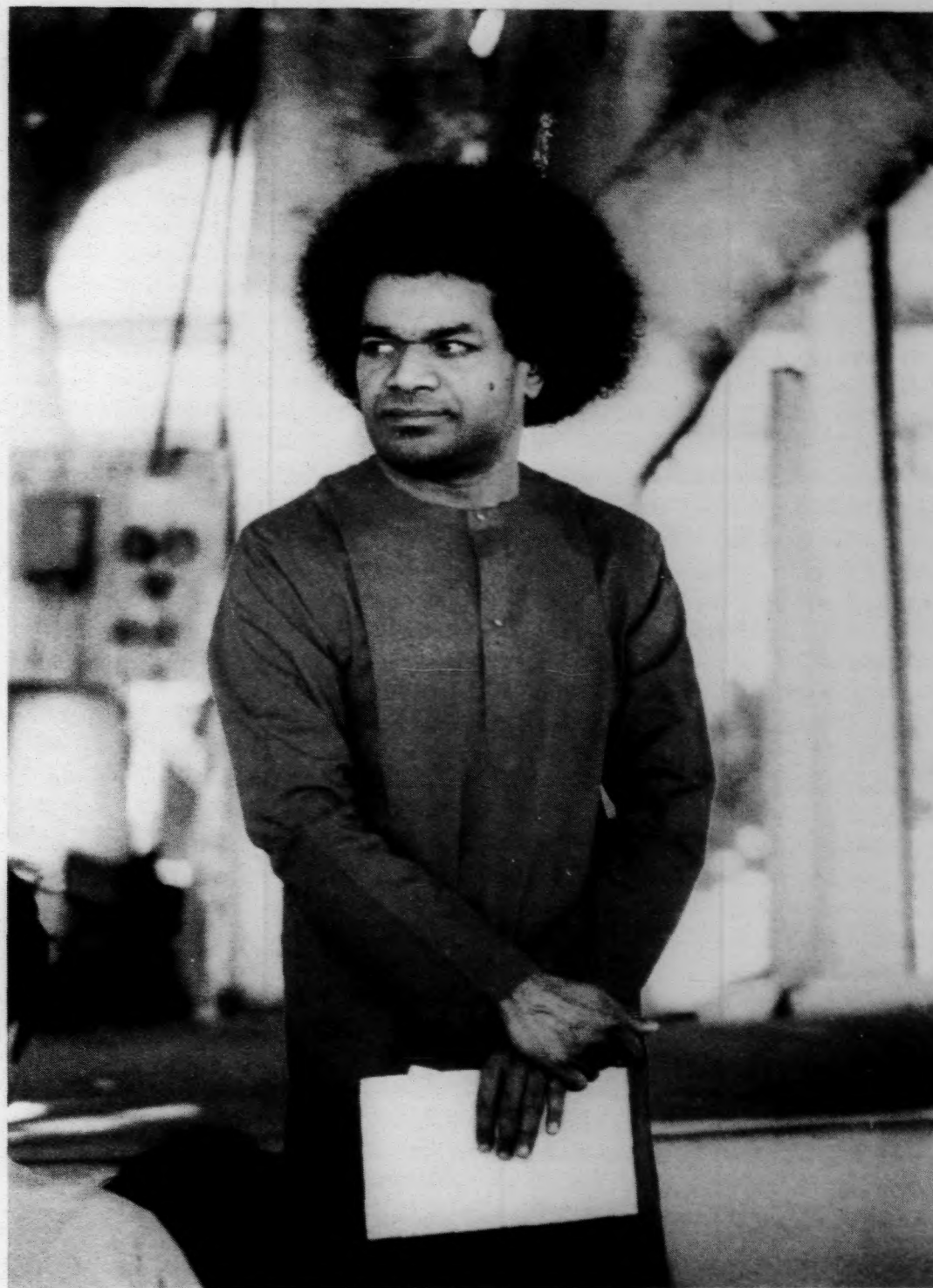
When we accept and obey these, we can call ourselves devotees of Sai. Lead such a life and, after a while, others will know and appreciate you.

Happiness will come in the same measure as your love for God. Immeasurable happiness can be obtained through loving God without limit. So, lead your life in love and give it up in love.

—Sathya Sai Baba
December 25, 1995

You are experiencing great joy in feeling that you are celebrating my birthday. For me, there is no birthday to be celebrated. It is for your happiness, and to fulfill your wishes that I have agreed to take part in various programs arranged for the birthday. If one has no birth, there is no death. If there is death, then one must have been born. Birth and death are actions and reactions. I am beyond both.

—Baba, *Sathya Sai Speaks*, Vol. XI, Chapter 11



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The Book Center is happy to announce that all of Baba's holy texts are now available in Spanish. The list includes all volumes of: • *Vahinis*, • *Sathya Sai Speaks* and • *Summer Showers*, as well as other popular books by various authors.

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