



SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER, USA

Love

Peace

Truth

Nonviolence

Right conduct

Brief Overview of Baba's Teachings and Activities

• **Bhagavan on Love:** We should transform love into service and into worship—that is the highest spiritual practice. Through love you can achieve anything; without it, life is useless. The best way to love God is to love all, serve all. The end of knowledge is love.

• **Bhagavan on Education:** The end of education is character. In all of the instructional institutions that Swami has founded, academic excellence is part of the program. However, He emphasizes that character building is more important than academic excellence.

It is noteworthy that the students in His educational system can go from K to post-graduate school for an MBA or a Ph.D.—ALL FREE OF COST.

Based on the guidelines established by Bhagavan, other schools have been established in several countries such as Thailand, Zambia, Canada, and more schools are being planned.

Swami has also emphasized the overall growth of the students which includes sports, music, and art. A world cricket tournament took place on the playing field at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Puttaparthi in 1997. The new music academy is near completion; it provides teaching of music and music appreciation, a museum, and a theatre for the performing arts.

• **Bhagavan on Youth:** In human life, the time of youth is like water that flows into a river—it cannot be turned back. If young people use their time in proper ways, they will gain fulfillment in life. The Sathya Sai Youth program is involved in visiting villages, organizing medical and sanitation camps, visiting hospitals, teaching adult education, etc. They are encouraged to help wherever there is a need.

• **Bhagavan on Meditation:** Swami has said that meditation is the means to rise above desires. Meditation steadies the mind and helps one to think more clearly.

• **Bhagavan on Society:** Swami says that one individual does not make a society. The welfare of one person is dependent on the unity of the entire society. We should help the suffering and afflicted members of society to the best of our capacity and strength.

• **Bhagavan on the Activities of Ex-students:** Large numbers of graduate students have undertaken several tasks such as distribution of food, medicine, and conducting *Bal Vikas* (children's) programs in their home towns.

• **Bhagavan on Medical Care:** India's medical care has not kept up with the need. Sri Sathya Sai Baba intends to change that—irregardless of caste, creed, or religion. A beginning was established as early as 1963 with the formation of a General Hospital in Prasanthi Nilayam (Baba's *ashram*), and now it has 100 beds. It was followed by the Sri Sathya Sai Hospital in Brindavan, Whitefield in 1976; that facility has also been upgraded and enlarged. All medical services are FREE in both hospitals.

In November, 1991, the Sri Sathya Sai Super Specialty Hospital was inaugurated in Puttaparthi. It is a state-of-the-art facility with several hundred beds. Its specialties are Cardiology and Cardio-thoracic and Vascular surgeries, Uro Nephrology, Ophthalmology

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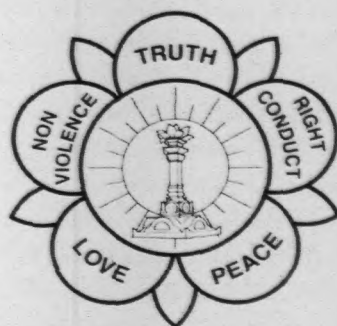
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Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA

*This publication is dedicated with Love and Devotion to
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

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—Barbara Bozzani, Editor

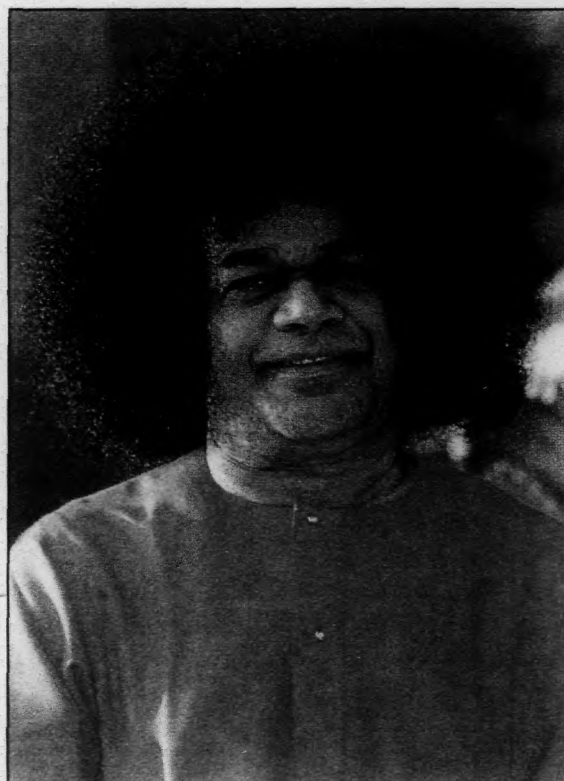
Sai's Message

God is all powerful, but at the same time human effort is also necessary. Without it, man cannot enjoy the benefit of God's grace. It is only when you have both divine grace and human endeavor that you can experience bliss, just as you can enjoy the breeze of a fan only when you have both a fan and the electrical energy to operate it.

In the great drama of cosmic life, the cosmic director, God, is also an actor. The cosmic play is also governed by certain rules and regulations. Because He is the Almighty, God cannot behave in an arbitrary manner. His actions have to be in accordance with His role in the cosmic play. There are certain rules as to how one should act according to the time, the place, and the circumstances. He cannot behave according to His whims just because He is all powerful. For instance, the officer who lays down the rules for controlling traffic cannot disobey them on the grounds that he is their author. Likewise, the Creator has to conform to the rules laid down by Him for creation.

Not recognizing this truth, people who are involved in worldly ways ask questions as to why in certain situations, God did not use His limitless powers to avert certain untoward events. These arise out of a narrow concept of things, without understanding how the Divine operates...

When things are seen with a broad perspective, it will be recognized that anything can happen to anyone, any place, or any time. No one is competent to determine where a certain thing should take place. Life may end in a town, in water, or in a forest. Each one's life will end in the place, the manner, and at the time prescribed for him. This is inescapable. This is according to the operation of nature's law based on the pairs of opposites—the concept of duality. There is continual conflict between the opposites—pleasure and pain, birth and death.



—Sathya Sai Baba

Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. XXVI, chap.26

"I Will Follow You"

Realizing the truth of Swami's presence

I was in Brindavan in February of 1991. Swami had built some new dormitory rooms, and I was staying in one of them. The day I arrived, Baba went into several rooms to make certain that devotees would be comfortable.

Rumors often get started about what Baba's schedule will be. This time was no different, and the rumor was that He would be going to Madras. Yes, any day Sai Baba would be leaving for a five-day stay in Madras, and He would be traveling by car. Each dawn we expected to see Him gesture *Abhaya Hasta* (fear not) with His small hand and climb into a vehicle to be driven away.

Our group was granted an interview with Him. Swami spoke for a long time on spiritual matters, created some materializations, and made us laugh and cry with His wit, wisdom, and love. Small groups were invited to a private interview room for more personal exchanges with Swami. While in the small interview room, using the proper etiquette when the time was appropriate, I asked Swami, "May I follow you to Madras?"

He replied with a smile, *I will follow you*. I was delighted to have permission to go to Madras with Him.

After the interview, I returned to my room and pondered His reply. My ego came up with the following "logical" interpretation: Swami must have meant that his car would be stopping at a tiny village en route, so that Baba could give His blessings to the people,

or that He would pull off to the side of the road and find a secluded spot to serve lunch to the devotees. My cab would continue straight ahead, and of course He would then be following me!

As the years ticked away, I often reflected on Bhagavan's words, *I will follow you*. I replayed this phrase in my mind, knowing that one must dive deep within to retrieve His pearls of wisdom.

The spring of 2001 brought the birth of a dark Arabian filly (young female horse). Her name was Kali. Her mother, Mattasky, was pastured on my property. The foal (baby horse) and her mother were kept in the stall for three days after the birth. The pasture had been irrigated, and the owner of the foal did not want her to slip and fall on the wet field. So until the ground dried, the mare (adult female horse) and foal were confined.

Horses are animals of flight; this is their tool for survival. They run from their predators. A newborn foal stands up immediately after birth to test its slender legs and move around for a bit. A foal born in the wild would need to learn to run soon after birth for its survival.

Laurie, the owner of the horse, was very excited the day the ground was dry enough to allow the foal out into the pasture. She asked me if I had ever seen a newborn foal run for the first time with its mother. I replied that I had seen babies run with their mothers in the movies but not up close and personally.

Laurie checked the pasture to make sure nothing would harm the foal. After checking the gates and removing some rocks, she was ready to let the three-day-old Kali out for the first time. Laurie swung open the stall gate. Obviously glad to be free, Mother Mattasky walked out, nibbled some fresh grass, and pranced gracefully, showing off her new baby. The foal, free for the first time, took off!

First she trotted briefly; then she galloped, and soon she was running, testing herself at full speed, with her tiny neck extended straight out, her short fuzzy mane and curly tail flying in the breeze. Round and round the pasture she ran. Her mother ran behind her, allowing Kali to experience on her own, to learn for herself at her own pace, to find out firsthand about life as a horse. Mother was near, but baby had the freedom of choice. It was a stunning sight. In that moment, I vividly understood Swami's words, *I will follow you.*

Baba allows me the freedom to choose my own actions and responses to the karma that I myself have created, but He follows close behind as the divine mother, to guide, protect, teach, and encourage.

Swami has given us free will, the freedom to choose our behaviors. He leads all by example. His teachings bring awareness and knowledge. When these are put into practice, they become wisdom. Wisdom then becomes Peace of Mind. To

the ego-limited consciousness, "follow" may imply "being second" or "less than." We tend to want to lead. To divine consciousness, all implications are pure love.

Just as the mother ran behind her baby, Swami follows us. He allows us to make our choices, to experience life on earth as human beings. He tells us He is above, beside, around, inside, and behind us. *I will follow you.* He is prepared to pardon faults and failures. He accepts us, just as we are.

Referring to Baba, N. Kasturi states in his small booklet, *Gurudev*, page 23, "My master told me that He would follow His devotee as a cow follows the calf. In His infallible love, He grants me freedom to toddle. When I totter to a fall, I am confident He will rush to help. His hands are everywhere, as He told Arjuna on the battlefield.

So it was on this early morning in March, ten years after He spoke to me, that I finally understood what He meant in reply to my question. Swami teaches through all media. I was touched deeply by the sheer beauty of the animals He used as my teachers.

As Kali slowed to a stop, her mother also stopped, and the beauty of God's creation made me cry. I felt overwhelmed in the safe and secure knowing that Swami would follow me. He will follow you, too!

—J.F. Ziegler
Gilbert, Arizona

If we have faith in God, all other beliefs are irrelevant.

—Sathya Sai Baba
Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. XI, ch. 11

Live in *Atmic* Consciousness

Divine Discourse on Sankranti Sports Day Festival, January 14, 2002

The sun shines serenely and peacefully.

The days grow shorter, and the chill winds blow fiercely.

*The fields are ripe with golden crops, and the farmers
rejoice in singing.*

*The buds of flowers blossom like garlands on the banks of
the rivers.*

The sweet festival of Sankranti has arrived,

Filling our homes with newly-harvested grain. (Telegu poem)

*When people give up hatred and violence, inculcate the feelings of
love and acquire the wisdom to realize the unity of mankind, the
earth will then become verily heaven. (Telegu poem)*

Embodiments of Love! Boys and girls! During the last four days, Prasanthi Nilayam showed itself to be a unique world. Students of Prasanthi Nilayam, Anantapur and Brindavan campuses, and also the Higher Secondary School and Primary School worked hard with dedication and devotion and displayed all-round skills. Not merely the students but also the teachers, young and old alike, rendered all possible assistance to the students in their preparations.

Truly speaking, such principles of love, unity, devotion, and dedication cannot be found in any other institution in the world. The world will be rid of all problems if such institutions are present everywhere. The students, boys and girls alike, displayed wonderful demonstrations of skill and beauty. In addition to academics, the students have demonstrated their talents

in diverse fields. Awareness is life. Our students excelled not only in sports and games but also in performing in the band and in *Nadaswaram* (a musical presentation), giving joy to all.

The lion dance group consisted of boys from lower classes as well as from postgraduate programs such as the MBA, M.Tech, and M.Sc. They performed with great enthusiasm and perfection and made everybody happy. Girls from the Anantapur Campus undertook training under experts and learned *Nadaswaram*, for the express purpose of performing on Swami's birthday and at convocation functions. This morning you might have heard their performance also. The students participated in sports, music, and cultural events not for their own satisfaction but with the sole intention of pleasing Swami. They went through many

difficulties and inconveniences with strong determination and achieved success.

You have just listened to the speech of a student from Darjeeling. He is a member of the lion dance group. During one of the rehearsal sessions he went up to a height of 12 feet to perform a daring stunt. Swami had advised him not to go to such a height, but in his enthusiasm to please Swami, he ignored

Swami's words. He lost his balance and fell down. There was a swelling on his neck. Then I told him to rest for a few days. He said, "Swami I have come all the way from Darjeeling for only

one purpose, to dedicate myself at your feet. Whatever happens to my body, I will not give up my resolve."

He was determined to participate in the dance. I was pleased with his strong faith and determination. I gently touched his neck with my hand and told him that everything would be all right. He was completely cured. I respond to each of you according to the feelings you have towards me. My *sankalpa* (divine will) is based on your feelings. Ultimately, the boy rose to the occasion and performed the feat admirably.

Understand the Mystery of Mind and Matter

Today you find many people, young and old, accomplishing stupendous tasks by dint of their strong determination. But so far, no

one has been able to unravel the mystery of mind and matter. All the activities of humanity, from dawn to dusk, are related to these two. Even the highly educated do not make any effort to understand this. If you ask them, "What is *mind*?" they say, "It does not matter!" They argue that there is no point in trying to understand the nature of the mind. If you ask them, "What is *matter*?" they say,

"Never mind!"

First and foremost, people should understand the relationship between mind and matter. The one who does not know the nature of the mind can be called a fool. The one

who understands the nature of the mind is truly *mahaneeya* (noble). What is the form of the mind? Where has it originated? What is its nature? What is the mystery behind it? One should inquire along these lines.

The Three Powers of the *Atma*

The *Atma* has three powers associated with it: 1) *manas* (mind), 2) *buddhi* (intellect), and 3) *samskara* (culture or mental propensities from past and present lives).

The vastness of the mind is indescribable. It can travel to any distance in a trice. The power of the mind is beyond description and human comprehension. No task can be accomplished without the power of the mind. The mind has no form. It works only with the help of the *Atmic*

The body and the mind are only instruments. They are under your control. Do not identify yourself with these instruments. You are the master. Master the mind and be a mastermind.

power. Therefore, it is the inner Self that operates through the mind and performs all activities in the world. Even ages of effort are inadequate to understand the nature of the mind.

The second is the power of intellect. It is full of illumination. It discriminates between good and evil without giving room to selfishness.

The third is the power of *samskara*. Its results are experienced not only in this birth but also in future births. *Samskara* is the giving up of evil and the cultivating of goodness in thought, word, and

deed. It is not possible for any book to describe in detail the powers of *manas*, *buddhi*, and *samskara*. Hence, I have decided to explain to the students about these three.

To begin with, try to understand the relationship between mind and matter. One cannot exist without the other. Here is a rose. This corresponds to matter. Without the mind, you cannot see this rose flower. The mind is based on the principles of reaction, resound, and reflection. A true human being is one who understands the nature of the mind and its effects. You think that the mind is a bundle of thoughts. From where do the thoughts arise? The Self is the basis of thoughts, which arise out of *chaitanya* (awareness). Everyone is endowed with *vijnana* (wisdom). But some foolish people feel proud of their bookish knowledge. Such people cannot be

called truly educated. Without the knowledge of the Self, all other forms of knowledge are useless.

Who Are You?

Take for instance a person who is highly educated in the physical sense. Ask that person a question, "Who are you?" Despite high qualifications, he or she will not be able

to respond correctly.

The person might say, "I am Rama Sastri." This is the name given to the body. It does not correspond to the true Self. If you ask the same question again, the person

All that is related to the body, such as name, profession, and education, are temporary. Truth is your name.

You are the Self, which is eternal.

Hence, give up body attachment and live in Atmic consciousness.

may say, "I am a scholar." Even this is not correct, because it corresponds to worldly education and has nothing to do with the true Self. If you ask again, the answer might be, "I am an Indian." The person fails to understand that neither name, nor profession, nor nationality correspond to the true Self.

The body and the mind are only instruments. They are under your control. Do not identify yourself with these instruments. You are the master. Master the mind and be a mastermind. When you explain to people in this manner, they will realize the truth and give the correct answer: "All these days I was deluded with body attachment. Now I realize that I am the *Atma*, which transcends the body, is beyond time, and which cannot be comprehended by worldly education."

It is the unseen *Atma* that makes the body function. People forget the master (the *Atma*) and get deluded by their attachment to the body. All that is related to the body, such as name, profession, and education, are temporary. Truth is your name. You are the Self, which is eternal. Hence, give up body attachment and live in *Atmic* consciousness. So long as one is attached to the body, one can never attain the knowledge of the *Atma*. You may be able to quote from the scriptures, but that corresponds only to bookish knowledge that cannot lead you to your true Self. You are the *Atma*, which is the source of all powers.

The Power of Mind

In order to understand the power of the *Atma*, first of all inquire into the nature of the mind. The effects of the mind cannot be described in words. The mind is responsible for birth, death, action, family, childhood, old age, happiness, sorrow, success, and failure. All of life is based on the mind. Once you understand the nature of the mind, you will know the nature of matter. To understand the nature of the mind, you should have control over your senses. How can you control others when you cannot control your own senses? You need to have sense control in order to become a good leader.

The mind is very powerful. Without understanding its power, people feel proud of their limited knowledge. This is utter foolishness. They feel they know everything. They divert their minds toward trivial objectives without trying to know the *Atma*.

This is the reason people are subjected to difficulties and misery. You alone are responsible for your happiness or misery. Do not blame others for your condition. As you are unable to realize your true Self, you experience the dualities of pleasure and pain. Once you know your true Self, these dualities will not affect you.

It is a sin to blame others for your suffering. You suffer because of lack of morality in your feelings and improper conduct. Your destiny is based on your character. Character is based on actions. Actions are based on thoughts. Therefore, cultivate morality and sacred thoughts. None can escape the law of action, and this is based on the mind.

Knowledge of the Self

Embodiments of Love! You cannot exist without the mind. The mind is with you always. You can be called a human being only when you know the nature of the mind. This is the teaching of *Vedanta*. *Vedanta* is the essence of the *Vedas*, which teach the *Atma jnana* (knowledge of the Self). The *Atma* is like the control room. Once you gain access to the control room, all your senses and the mind will be under your control. When the main switch of the house is turned on, the bulbs in all the rooms will glow. The *Atma* is like the main switch and the senses are like the bulbs in different rooms.

Take for instance a mansion consisting of various rooms such as the bedroom, storeroom, dining room, bathroom, kitchen, etc. The rooms are of your own making.

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Go Inside

Solving the dilemma of "being in the world"

Sri Sathya Sai Baba often says, *Go inside*. I've heard this comment for a very long time. What is its true meaning? What does it mean for me in my everyday world?

Be in the world but not of the world.

Control the mind. Be a Mastermind.

These words resound in me. Truly, I must understand these words. Haven't I worked hard at these concepts? Surely I have progressed in this endeavor after having been with Swami for so many years—or so I thought!

Circumstances led to an adventure recently that awakened me to a greater reality. I was off to India, to Swami, not to any special festival, not to any conference, not even knowing where Swami would be. This was to be a true adventure and I was determined to play the game!

And so the game of life and truth was to unfold.

After arrival in Bangalore and being told that Sai was in Prasanthi Nilayam, off I went. The mood of adventure continued to be filled with joy as I passed the lush greenery on the way to Puttaparthi. Although hot and tired, I was excited to receive the Lord's afternoon *darshan*. The hall was already filled, but I was able to see Swami as He walked across so slowly and lightly. The *darshan* was similar to the first one I had seen some 30 years before and the many I had witnessed in the following years. Yes, over the years, the *darshan* area has changed and the

number of devotees has grown, but there was Sai, still pouring His love to all. I was home again.

No sooner had the day passed when another surprise came. My loving Sai left in the morning for Brindavan. And so the adventure continued. I was back in a taxi to where I had been the day before.

After settling in and washing up, afternoon *bhajan* time was upon us. Brindavan had changed much since I first looked upon Baba sitting in His chair next to the Krishna statue and the beautiful huge tree in the open area of what was then the *ashram*. Once again, I was witnessing changes all around except for the orange-robed Love who was keeping time to the devotional singing and who would disappear into a realm beyond my mortal comprehension.

So many people were now in a place I had known before, a place where a small number would come to see Swami close by. Now, I was under medical orders not to sit on the floor and so the space between Swami and me, measured in worldly distance, had also changed. The orange speck had indeed moved farther away, but He was closer inside, and still my heart warmed to the music of prayer to the Lord. Awareness of His message was dawning.

Bhajans ended and I found myself moving outside the *ashram* gate. The quietude and peace vibrating within me was

quickly dispelled by the noise on the street. There, hundreds of people were shouting, competing with the cacophony of the trucks rushing by, their horns exploding warnings. All the while the local shops continued blaring out music that was meant to be the same *bhajans* that had just brought me peace inside the *ashram* but now left me in a state of disarray.

I walked the road to my room, completely confused. What was happening? The thought of Buddha crossed my mind, the time when he left the walls of his protective abode. Had he felt this way? But why me, I wondered? I had not been so sheltered. I had lived a long time in the world of conflict, problems, and disappointments, as well as the pleasures that came in between. Why was I reacting to all this?

Be in the world but not of it.

That evening, those words took on a greater meaning, an awakening that told me I had indeed been sheltered from much of the rest of this planet. I had been granted a world of some material comfort, much cleanliness, relatively quiet surroundings, and a body well nourished and cared for. I was now facing another part of life, a different existence for most people on earth, and I was reacting. What had I learned from Swami? I needed truly to *Go inside*.

My mind recalled what I had just read in the *Gita Vahini*:

Like darkness arising in the room, hiding the room itself; like the moss growing on the water, hiding the water itself; like the cataract growing in the eye, hiding the vision; Maya too attaches itself to whoever helps it grow.*

My answer had arrived. I had a role to defeat the *maya* that was overtaking me. So, instead of hearing what may be the roar of the trucks or the music playing loudly in disharmony, I shall hear Swami's mellifluous voice, singing so softly and sweetly and telling me the message of truth. I shall see Him in the faces of all, whether they are pleading for alms or pens, or crippled and lame, as well as those playing the game that was bestowed upon them. For there will be Swami with love and joy in each one.

My adventure had indeed made its round, for I am the *Atma*, untouched by all that exists in this material world, and thus I shall be witness to the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth!

Om, Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.

—Anonymous

April 9, 2002

*illusion; taking the appearance as real.

Whether one is a potentate or a commoner, only when one gives up egoistic pride and is ready to sacrifice will love blossom within him. More than all other forms of love, one's first effort should be to fix one's love on the Lord.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. III

Almost a National Incident

Swami's divine play...through me!

Every day I pray in this way to Swami: "Breathe through me today, Lord; think through me today, Lord; act through me today, Lord; love through me today, Lord; feel through me today, Lord; and play through me today, Lord."

It really seems He has answered my prayers this week, but in a totally unexpected way and with the marvelous sense of humor that only Swami is capable of. The story is as follows:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) employs me on the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project ("the Project"), where I have worked for 16 years. DOE employees and contractors have spent 20 years characterizing the Yucca Mountain site for the potential disposal of high-level nuclear waste (spent fuel rods from power plants and defense waste). We are undergoing a highly controversial stage of the Project, which has seen the President of the United States approving a positive Site Recommendation followed by the Governor of Nevada vetoing the Site Recommendation.

The Governor subsequently asked for every citizen in the state to send a dollar to a "Nevada Protection Fund" earmarked for fighting the Project, as now the decision goes to Congress to possibly override the governor's veto. This virtual, political war has filled the headlines in the newspapers of Nevada for many years, now reaching a

crescendo. As you can imagine, we often have a stressful environment on the Project given the circumstances.

Project employees located in Las Vegas work in a secured facility with badges required for entry. Our employees enter by swiping their access cards across an electronic sensor, which unlocks the doors for entry. Tuesday morning, April 16th, the front doors were locked and yellow-taped as well as our side entrances. The only entrance was through the back doors. As I walked through that door Tuesday morning, I observed many people standing around the guard desk. One of them began to reach for a piece of paper, asking me, "Do you know what happened?"

"No," I said as Mercedes handed me a flyer notifying me of a security and safety incident. It seems a folded paper was found Monday about 5:00 p.m. at the main entrance to the building. It contained a grayish substance, possibly harmful, maybe anthrax. Some employees had been in the building until 10:00 Monday night with the fully-suited Las Vegas hazardous materials team, police, and firefighters mitigating the threat by wiping down the counter and floors with chlorine bleach and water.

The flyer gave us permission to take administrative leave, depending on our level of concern about the substance in the folded paper. Some chose to take the day off.

Intuitively, I checked in and felt no threat. Besides, I was already in the building, so why go home? Then I recalled that I had also been at the front desk Monday night at about 5:00.

I had the thought, "I wonder what that is about?" I began to replay internally the events of the previous day.

Monday morning, April 15th, I had forgotten my briefcase, with my badge inside, not realizing this until I was well into my 35-mile commute from Boulder City to Las Vegas. Rather than turn around and add more time to my commute, I kept driving, thinking I would sign for a visitor's badge for the day. As I drove, I took a small paper package of *vibhuti* (holy ash) out of my ashtray and placed it in my shirt pocket. This is the first time I remember doing this, since I already have a large bag of *vibhuti* in my desk. *Vibhuti* is a sacred substance that represents the final stage of all physical manifestation, ash. Many respect it as holy and sacred. It has been used by Sai Baba to heal and protect His devotees.

I recall seeing the words *BE HAPPY* on the package that day, visible through my shirt pocket in the restroom mirror as I washed my hands. *Don't worry, be happy*, is one of Sathya Sai Baba's admonitions, one that is appropriate for me since I ask Him to "play through me." I moved the packet of *vibhuti* in my pocket so the *BE HAPPY* could not be seen, placing it behind my sunglasses. I didn't want to answer questions if someone were to ask me about the *BE HAPPY* paper showing through my pocket. RIGHT!

As I left Monday, I stopped by the front security counter to return my visitor's badge.

I wouldn't have done this if I'd had my own badge. I removed my sunglasses from my shirt pocket at the front counter to walk outside. The receptionist was busy on the phone. She quickly took the badge and went back to the phone. I was also in a hurry since I was scheduled to teach yoga in Boulder City at 6:15.

As I walked into my office Tuesday morning, my office partner, Ken, told me how worried he was about the unknown substance and about the number of people in the office who were equally concerned. He questioned the wisdom of allowing us to return to work with the potential gray powder still possibly in the building and maybe throughout the air conditioning system by now. His warning reminded me of my supply of protective gray powder (*vibhuti*) in my top desk drawer. It seemed a good moment to invoke some protection. I took out the powder, dipped my finger in the bag, and ate some of the gray *vibhuti* while Ken watched.

He exclaimed, "Holy cow!"

I replied, "Exactly, that's where it comes from, and there are many holy cows in India!"

We both chuckled at this.

Later that morning, I attended a teleconference with our headquarters office in Washington, DC. A colleague mentioned seeing the paper that the unknown substance had been enclosed in. I asked if it had any writing on it, and he replied that *BE HAPPY* was printed on the outside of the paper.

A rush of energy poured through my body. I announced, "I know what that is! It is *vibhuti*, sacred ash from India!" In the

presence of the Department of Energy headquarters staff, as well as our project staff in Las Vegas, I confessed to being the source of the unknown substance. By this time my face was crimson! Ha! Ha! I now recognized the *leela* (divine play) of my teacher, Sathya Sai Baba.

A notice was posted on the Project's computer-based announcement system to explain the substance and assuage the concerns of employees:

NOTICE TO YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT EMPLOYEES

This is a follow-up to our message earlier today regarding the packet that was found in the lobby of the Hillshire building last night. A DOE employee inadvertently dropped the packet containing "Vibhuti," a sacred ash used in the Hindu faith. The material is harmless. The 5 employees who came into contact with the packet as well as NVO medical officer and Clark County Health Department have been notified. All restrictions on using the lobby have been lifted.

An ORPS report will be completed and a lessons-learned critique will be conducted to ensure that our procedures are adequate to protect employee safety.

So much for keeping things hidden. Now every single one of the 400 employees who has read the announcements for the Project knows what *vibhuti* and the *BE HAPPY* packets are. It is no longer a secret in my shirt pocket. Since then, when I walk into a room at work, people turn to smile at me. Many *vibhuti* one-liners have been thrown about, with the newly-familiar word rolling off the tongues of many employees.

The Deputy Project Manager and the Director of Personnel Management personally thanked me for coming forward and telling what had happened. The Deputy Project Manager was one of the employees who had been directly exposed to the *vibhuti*. I bet he was relieved! Since that day, many employees have thanked me for their day off; others have given me a friendly jab about the *vibhuti*, while others have asked me about Sai Baba and my religious beliefs.

Evidently when I pulled my sunglasses out of my shirt pocket to exit the building on Monday, the *vibhuti* package fell out and landed on the counter, blessing it and beginning a chain of events that hasn't yet fully played out. As our Lord says, *Life is a game, play it!*

—Eric L. Lundgaard
Boulder City, Nevada

Meanwhile, remember three things: continue serving wherever you are; seek chances for helping others. Never lose an opportunity for using your skills and enthusiasm for the alleviation of sorrow, pain, or distress. Do not neglect or postpone your own particular spiritual discipline. Above all, have the faith that Swami is with you at all times and in all places.

—Sathya Sai Baba,
Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. VII, ch. 45

Pointers to Divinity

Divine discourse on Shivarathri, March 12, 2002

God is the basis of the universe. Truth is the essence of God. The virtue of noble souls is Truth. Such noble souls are verily divine. (Sanskrit verse)

Embodiments of love! Our ancients inquired into the nature of divinity through many paths, but were not successful in recognizing true reality. Hence, they started worshipping *prakriti* (nature). Thereafter, the *Bharatiyas* (Indians) took to *murthi aradhana* (idol worship). Every creature that takes birth in this universe has a form. Idols are inert in nature and do not possess the qualities of compassion, love, forbearance, and the like. It is for this reason that some people are against idol-worship. This is ignorance.

Significance of Idols

You use your forefinger to point to a specific object, say, a flower or a tumbler. Similarly, idols are like pointers to divinity. Once you recognize divinity, you don't need the pointers, that is to say, idols. Such being the case, is it not foolish to object to idol worship? Do you not worship the pictures of your parents and grandparents? Do these pictures have life in them? No. Nor do they have the qualities of compassion, love, sacrifice, and so on. Then what is the point in worshipping them? It is through these pictures that we are reminded of their virtues and the ideals they stood for.

Take for instance a hundred rupee note with dimensions of six inches by four inches. There is neither life nor the virtues of love, compassion, or other character values in this currency note. Yet people love it and want to possess it. Is there anybody in the world who dislikes money? Irrespective of country or religion, everyone loves money. There are innumerable instances wherein people gave up their lives for the sake of money. Money is valuable because it bears the government's seal. Similarly, we respect the national flag for the values it stands for, even though it is merely a piece of inert cloth. If idol worship is considered foolish, then the same should apply to the love for money and respect for the flag, which are also lifeless. People's beliefs are based on their likes and dislikes.

Symbols Have Meaning

Every being is an embodiment of God. It is also said, God is the indweller of all beings; He is present in all beings in the form of consciousness. God is the master of six forms of wealth: *dharma* (righteousness), *aiswarya* (wealth), *yashas* (fame), *shakti* (power), *jnana* (wisdom) and *vairagya* (detachment). God has another name, *San(m)kara*. *Sam* refers to *chidanandam* (eternal bliss) and *Atmanandam* (bliss of the Self). *Kara* means one who bestows. Therefore, *Sankara* is one who confers eternal bliss.

Every word has a deep inner meaning. Take for instance the name *Sathya Sai*. *Sathya* stands for *Rig Veda*. *Sa*, *Aa*, and *Ya* in *Sai* stand for *Sama Veda*, *Atharvana Veda*, and *Yajur Veda*, respectively. Therefore, *Sathya Sai* is the very personification of the four Vedas. What is the meaning of the term *linga*? It is the symbol of divinity, as it has neither beginning nor end. Divinity is immanent in the heart (*hridaya*) of every person. *Hridaya* means that which is suffused with compassion. So divinity is the embodiment of compassion.

Today people are unable to understand the principle of divinity. Though the modes of worship vary, they all are directed towards different forms of the same God. You may call him *Rama*, *Krishna*, *Easwara*, or any other name. All are one. They refer to the same God. Each person worships a particular form according to his or her preferences. Some people worship *Rama* because they are attracted to *Rama's* name and form. It is said, *Ramayate iti Rama*. (*Rama* is the One who captivates the hearts of one and all.)

Today is *Shivarathri*, meaning auspicious night. *Shiva* symbolizes the breathing process, the sound, *Soham*, which takes place in every person. This is referred to as *Hamsa Gayatri*. (*A*)*Ham* refers to *I*, and *So* means *That* (God). This message of *I am God* is conveyed through this breathing process 21,600 times a day. Such teachings have been propagated and practiced since ancient times.

The *Chaitanya* Principle

It is the finger that points to a flower. Likewise, idols point to divinity. Therefore,

idol worship cannot be considered foolish. Never disregard idols because they are inert. Even in inert objects there is *chaitanya* (consciousness). Brahman is subtler than the subtlest and vaster than the vastest.

This *chaitanya* is present in the smallest to the largest. From your point of view an object may appear to be inert, but from the *Vedic* point of view, everything is consciousness. It is foolish to overlook the existence of *chaitanya*. One may question that if consciousness is all-pervasive, why is it not visible to the naked eye? You are all well aware of the fact that there is butter in every drop of milk. Can you deny its existence merely because it is not visible to the naked eye? The process of obtaining butter involves curdling the milk and then churning it. People are unable to perceive this *chaitanya* principle because of two defects:

1. They overlook their innumerable mistakes.
2. They magnify the minutest mistakes of others.

One can attain divinity only when one stops hiding one's mistakes and highlighting the faults of others. It is a great sin to search for others' faults. Instead, look for your own. Consider your smallest defect as a great blunder and try to rectify the same. Ignore the faults in others however big they may be. Do not criticize others; instead criticize and examine yourself, "Is this the way I should behave, having been born as a human being?"

True spiritual practice lies in searching out one's own mistakes and correcting them.

It involves the giving up of evil tendencies and the developing of noble traits. That is *Sadhana* (spiritual practice). *Sa* symbolizes divinity, which is the embodiment of all forms of wealth (*dhana*). Today the people who seek out the faults of others are on the rise. This is the cause for restlessness in society. All those who aspire to be peaceful should eradicate all their defects. Only then can you realize *Shivatwa* (Divinity).

People fall prey to anger. Who is affected by this anger? It is not others but the people themselves. It is said,

Anger is one's own enemy; peace is the protective shield; compassion is the true relation; happiness is verily heaven and misery is hell.
(Telegu poem)

Therefore, make efforts to control your anger. Do not consider yourself to be superior to others.

Turn Your Vision Inward

Where is God? He is present in every human being and in every living creature. That is why it is said, "God is the indweller of all-beings" and "God takes the form of humanity." When you consider all as divine, you will never indulge in criticism. God judges people by their feelings, not by their actions. God is *Bhavapriya* (pleased by inner sincerity), not *Bahyapriya* (pleased by outer pomp). So make efforts to turn your vision inward.

One who goes purely by external vision is an animal. A true human being is one who looks inward. The moment an

animal spots a green patch of land, it immediately rushes to that spot without weighing the pros and cons. It is the duty of human beings to use their powers of discrimination and to act accordingly. People should be conscious of their duties always; otherwise, they have to pay a heavy price. Whenever there is a delay in the arrival of a bus or a flight, the passengers start criticizing all those responsible for the delay, because someone's duties were not carried out diligently. Likewise, people become objects of criticism if they do not discharge their duties properly.

People cannot be called human beings unless they practice human values—*sathya* (truth), *dharma* (righteousness), *santhi* (peace), *prema* (love), and *ahimsa* (non-violence). These are the five life-breaths of humanity. The absence of these life-breaths amounts to a living death. Each one is responsible for his or her own downfall. People kill themselves by not practicing these human values.

Speak Truth Always

Embodiments of Love! Love is your greatest asset. Develop love and always speak the truth. Truth sounds bitter whereas people are easily pleased by falsehood. People do not relish milk, which is brought to their doorstep, whereas they are prepared to traverse many miles to consume a bottle of liquor. Falsehood has become the order of the day. Falsehood may please others but not your conscience. Strive to satisfy your conscience before satisfying others. Under

all circumstances follow the path of truth. In case the utterance of truth is likely to lead to some danger, remain silent.

A hermit was deeply engrossed in the contemplation of God. He had vowed to speak truth always. Lord Easwara wanted to subject him to a test. He assumed the form of a hunter and started chasing a deer, which out of fear hid in a bush close to the hermitage. This was noticed by the hermit. On being questioned by the hunter about the whereabouts of the deer, the hermit was in a dilemma. He could not feign ignorance and say that he had not seen the deer, as that would amount to uttering a lie. At the same time he could not reveal the whereabouts of the deer, lest the hunter should kill it. In that case he would be a party to the crime.

He prayed to Lord Easwara fervently to show him a way out. By God's grace, a brilliant idea flashed in his mind. God is always with you, in you, around you, above you guiding and guarding you. Why fear when He is near?

The hermit replied, "O hunter, that which sees cannot speak; that which speaks cannot see." By such a tactful answer, the hermit not only upheld his adherence to truth but also protected the life of the deer. Then Lord Easwara manifested in His true form and declared, "Such tact, which safeguards your interests as well as those of others, is true *yoga*."

Therefore it is said, "Truth is the life of the tongue. Righteousness is the life of the hands. Nonviolence is the life of the heart." *Shivarathri* is celebrated to teach people the significance of these values.

Help Ever, Hurt Never

Shiva also stands for humility. A person with humility is one of *shivam* (auspiciousness). On the other hand, a person with ego is verily a *shavam* (corpse).

By constant prayer, people can overcome any difficult situation. Develop noble thoughts and help the needy. Do not harm anyone. The harm that you inflict on others will boomerang on you. Criticism and accusation are worldly traits and negative in nature. Develop positive tendencies. What is the use of all your education if you cannot give up your evil tendencies?

In spite of education and intelligence, a foolish person will not realize the true Self and a mean-minded person will not give up wicked qualities. Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom. What is the use of acquiring worldly education if it cannot lead you to immortality? Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal. (Telegu poem)

One attains merit by serving others and commits sin by hurting them. *Help ever, hurt never*. This is the essence of the eighteen *Puranas* (Hindu scriptures illustrating Vedic truths). Never mind if you have to suffer, but do not put others to suffering. God will take care of you.

Your behavior should be befitting of your human birth. *Neeti* (morality) and *nijayati* (integrity) are the life principles of the human race. Develop morality and

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"Take One Step..."

A miracle along the path

For the last twenty-five years, I have lived near the summit of the Ortega Highway, approximately thirty miles from the Pacific Coast and San Juan Capistrano in California. Previously, my home had been in Laguna Beach where I initially taught high school English and assorted subjects.

In the early 1980's, I acquired a lovely piece of real estate with a creek, ancient oaks, and an incredibly peaceful vibration. Over the years, Swami and I put in trails and paths, created small waterfalls in the creek, built birdhouses, planted California poppies (Swami's brilliant orange color), erected a couple of bridges, and tried to make the property as blissful as possible. A statue of Ganesha blessed by Swami sits atop a pedestal along the creek walkway.

I also chose some of Swami's words and had them written on wooden signs which currently hang on trees in various



locations along the pathways.

One day, a friend from the village called and asked if it would be all right to have her friend come to see my paintings in the gallery. Of course I agreed at once, especially when I was told her friend was helping battered women find shelter and hope from their despair. That was real Swami service, and I wanted to meet this lady.

In a few minutes they arrived. I showed them some of my paintings and then took them to the studio, where I had a few more pieces of art. As they looked around, the visitor exclaimed, "Isn't that Sai Baba?" A large life-size photo of Swami hangs on the wall. I answered in the affirmative, and questions were asked about Him. I did my best to answer and concluded by saying, "It's all true." The visitor expressed great interest in knowing more about Sai.

We then walked up the pathway along the creek, over the bridge, and to a small pond containing goldfish and a phrase written in cement, *Live in Love*.

As we stood by the pond, a two-foot high wooden plaque nearby began to swing like a slow-moving pendulum. We froze on the spot, watching the plaque swing as if a gentle hand was keeping it from jerking too fast.

I began to smile, got down on my knees, and quietly whispered, "Thank You, Swami, thank You!" Minutes went by. The plaque never stopped. The two ladies just stood there transfixed.

Finally my friend said, "Wow, I don't believe it!" or some similar words. We agreed as to the elapse of time, possibly ten minutes or more. Still the plaque continued its movements with perfect synchronicity.

We noted that not a breath of air was felt, nor were the leaves on the trees moving. It was absolutely still.

With quiet steps, we slowly walked back to the cabin where the two asked more questions about Baba. After about ten more minutes, my friend exclaimed, "My dog is in

the car. We have to get him home." Off they went to the parking lot, but on the way one called out about the plaque, wondering if it was still moving.

The three of us hurried back to the pond. The plaque was not moving. It was as still as the large oak trunk on which it was hung.

I looked at the two ladies and said, "You know, we saw another miracle of Baba's today. What a gift."

The three of us laughed joyfully and offered various opinions about the mysteries of God's gifts.

As they began to leave, I volunteered that perhaps the miracle of the moving plaque was a message for either one or both because the plaque's wording read:

"TAKE ONE STEP
TOWARD ME, AND
I'LL TAKE TEN STEPS
TOWARD YOU."

—BABA

—Nicolai

El Cariso Village, California

My task is to distribute solace, courage, and equanimity. That is to say, my characteristics are the ancient ones; only this manifested form is new. I am the servant of everyone. You can call me by any name; I will respond, for all names are mine. [Actually,] I have no particular name at all. Even if I am discarded by you, I shall be with you. In my view, there are no atheists at all; everyone exists by and for love; denying it does not make it disappear. I have come to illumine the human heart with divine light and rid people of the delusion that drags them away from the path of peace, the perfect equanimity of realization.

—Sathya Sai Baba

Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. I, ch. 16

Who I AM...

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM Divine Love.

I AM THAT perfect power that holds together all existence.

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM Divine Light.

I AM THAT effulgent radiance that transmits Love everywhere
and destroys the darkness of ignorance.

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM Divine Will.

I AM THAT creative imperative that brings good into
materialization.

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM Divine Equanimity.

I AM THAT limitless calm that is undisturbed
by the seduction of the senses and the wanderings of the mind.

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM Divine Peace.

I AM THAT vast ocean of absolute silence,
unmoved by the winds of change.

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM Divine Truth.

I AM THAT eternal certainty that all is One.

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM Divine Awareness.

I AM THAT unbounded consciousness that knows
that it is immeasurable and never-ending.

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM The One.

I AM THAT.

Sathya Sai Baba,

I AM GOD.

—Charles DiFazio
Glastonbury, Connecticut

Live in Atmic Consciousness

continued from page 8

Each room is separated from the others by walls. Once the walls are demolished, only one big hall remains. Body attachment is like a wall that separates one from the other and gets in the way of realizing the Self. Once this wall is broken down, you will realize the infinite and immortal Self.

Instead of realizing the infinite and immortal Self, you have been developing attachment to the body over a number of births. Develop detachment at least from this birth forward. You claim something as “mine” but it will be yours only as long as your body exists. After your death, what you earlier claimed as yours will belong to somebody else. Such being the case, why should you develop attachment to worldly possessions? Human life is based on “I” and “mine.” “I” refers to the *Atma*, and “mine” refers to matter. The mind has originated from the *Atma*. Matter is the effect of the mind. Once you know the nature of mind and matter, everything else will be known as well.

Students! You have a long life ahead of you. Do not wait until old age to take to the path of spirituality. Start early, drive slowly, reach safely. Be very cautious at this age, and do not waste your time in trivial pursuits. Time is very precious and once it is lost, you can never get it back. Make every effort to know what ought to be known while your sensory faculties are strong. If you cannot do it now, you can never do it in this life.

Oh people, do not take pride in your physical beauty, youth and sensory powers. Very soon, you will become

old. Your hair will turn grey, your skin will develop wrinkles, and your vision will be blurred. Children will make fun of you, calling you an old monkey. Your body is nothing but a doll made of skin. Try to understand the mystery behind this puppet show. (Telegu song)

Who will come to your rescue in old age? Hence, make proper use of your senses and be self-reliant. Nobody can say for sure what will happen to the body in the next moment, so do not develop body attachment. Nonetheless, you should take care of it properly, so that you do not depend on others; Do your duty sincerely.

The “I” Is the *Atma*

You refer to yourself as “I,” which is nothing but the *Atma*. Let your body be under the control of the *Atma* and no other. When you ask, “Who is Ramaiyya?” somebody will get up and say, “I”; if you ask, “Who is Anil Kumar?” the person standing here will say, “I.” In this manner, the principle of “I” is fundamental and is present in one and all. Just as one lamp lights another, it is from the fundamental “I” that all other “I’s” have emerged. The same current illumines all bulbs. Each being is like a bulb, and God is like the generator.

If someone were to ask you, “Who are you?” you should say with conviction that you are the *Atma*. What is mind? It is an aspect of the Self. Just as sugar is the basis for all sweets, the *Atma* is the basis for the body, mind, and intellect. One should hold on firmly to this fundamental principle. You belong to humankind. Do not let your mind

behave like a monkey. In fact, monkeys are better than people in the sense that they participated in the service of Rama.

Once a monkey taught a lesson to a man thus: "Oh mad fellow! You make fun of me but in fact I am far better than you are. Are you participating in the service of God, as I did? I obeyed the command of Lord Rama, crossed the ocean, and found the whereabouts of Mother Sita. I stood in front of Lord Rama like a *deena* (obedient servant) and faced Ravana like a *dheera* (one of valor). Likewise, you should be humble before the noble and face the wicked with courage."

Harmonize Mind, Intellect, and Refinement

Today people behave like mad monkeys. They may not have tails, but they have the traits of monkeys. Give up monkey traits and take to the sacred path, keeping the *Atma* as your goal. Understand that you are the spark of the *Atma* and strive to harmonize mind, intellect, and *samskara* (level of refinement). *Samskara* is very subtle. You may not understand its implication now. It follows you like a shadow from birth to birth. *Samskara* refers to the process of refinement. You have the power to refine yourself but you are not making use of it. You have to refine yourself. This is the sacred teaching of Indian culture.

Indian culture is like pure gold, but such precious culture is being ignored today. People do not respect their parents and elders. They have forgotten the sacred values of love and humility. They give importance only to worldly education and

material possessions. These will be with you as long as you are alive, but when you leave the body what follows you is only *samskara* (your tendencies) and not *samsara* (your family). Still, you ignore *samskara*, get caught up in *samsara*, and suffer from lack of peace.

In spite of their education and intelligence, foolish persons will not know their true Self, and mean-minded persons will not give up their wicked qualities. Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom. What is the use of acquiring worldly education if it cannot lead you to immortality? Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal. (Telegu poem)

You will attain immortality only when you acquire the knowledge of the Self.

Oh students! You struggle hard in life merely for the sake of filling your bellies. You acquire many forms of knowledge from various fields. Examine and inquire for yourself what great happiness you have achieved by spending all the time from dawn to dusk in acquiring knowledge and earning wealth while forgetting God. (Telegu poem)

Merely by looking at the world map, can you say that you have toured the length and breadth of the world? Likewise, mere acquisition of bookish knowledge is of no use. Inquire as to what you have gained by forgetting God and putting your faith in the

outer world. Nothing whatsoever! You may go abroad and earn *crores* (hundreds of thousands) of rupees, but can you take with you even a *naya paisa* (small coin) when you depart from this world? What is the use of merely going round the world? Does the spoon, which is used to serve various items like *sambar*, *chutney*, *rasam*, and *payasam* (sweet pudding), experience their different tastes? Likewise, people peruse various books without any benefit.

Determination, Discrimination, and Faith

Embodiments of Love! Students! Develop love and share it with others. Transform this world into a paradise of love. Then there will be no misery at all. Understand the nature of the mind and you will be redeemed. You took part in the sports meet, exhibited great talent, and won many prizes. This is also very essential from the worldly point of view. Worldly education is for life here, and spiritual education is for life hereafter. So both are essential. Worldly education is like the left leg and spiritual education is like the right leg. Both the legs are needed for marching. Likewise, both forms of education are needed for progress in life.

The left (worldly) has to be left some day or the other, but the right (spirituality) is always right. Most of us use the right hand to do our work. What does this mean? It

means that we should do only the right things and make everybody happy. Even in daily life, the left hand is used to clean away dirt and the right hand is used for performing one's duties.

What is the goal of human life? One has to recognize the fundamental truth that is the principle of *Atma*. It is within you. It is

*Develop love and share it with
others. Transform this world
into a paradise of love.*

possible to know this only through the intellect because the intellect alone has the capacity to discriminate. If you want to partake of an

orange, you have to peel off the bitter rind. Even the monkey peels off the skin of a banana before eating it. Likewise, the intellect should discard evil and assimilate good.

What is the use of human birth if people act the same as a monkey or buffalo? There are lessons to be learned even from buffaloes and cows. They graze in the fields without wasting a minute and masticate leisurely whatever they have eaten. Likewise, whenever you come across anything good, accept it without delay. Later on contemplate on it and assimilate it.

Cultivate Morality

Students! Even birds and beasts conduct themselves in accordance with their nature. But people, in spite of their education, have forgotten their true nature and behave like fools. What is the use of securing 100 percent marks in your examinations if you do not know the fundamental principles of life? You may

fill your head with bookish knowledge and vomit the same in an examination to get good marks. But how many marks have you secured in the field of spirituality? There is no point in attaining "first class" in worldly education while gaining a zero in spiritual education. No doubt marks are important, but you should also see that you do not earn bad remarks.

The boy who spoke earlier narrated his experience. When he fell down during one of the rehearsal sessions, he thought that he had lost his chance to perform and felt extremely sad. He prayed to me to cure him of his pain, so he could participate in the dance. Seeing his determination and faith, I cured him instantly. Such faith and determination are necessary to win divine grace.

Saint Purandaradasa said, "Oh God! When you protect your devotee you are Rama, and when you punish the wicked you are Yama (god of death). To Prahlada, you appeared as Narayana, and to the demon Hiranyakasipu you appeared as Yama. You manifest yourself in the same form in which the devotee pictures you."

The same is stated by Sage Vyasa, "One attains merit by serving others and commits sin by hurting them."

There can be no sinner worse than the one who criticizes God. There can be no hell worse than distancing oneself from God. You may argue that there are many in the world who have forgotten God and yet lead comfortable lives. No doubt they are living, but they live their lives like dogs and foxes. One should strive to live like a devotee to earn divine grace.

Students! Uphold the name of the [Sri Sathya Sai] Institute and be ideals to society. This is the gratitude you are expected to show to the Institute for having given you free education. In other institutes, you cannot get a seat without paying a donation. But here education is provided totally free. Money comes and goes, but morality comes and grows. So cultivate morality. Having been the recipients of Swami's love, every drop of your blood should be filled with gratitude.

Here is a small example. The Vice-Chancellor made a phone call to Singapore, and he asked a trainer to come here to train the boys in the lion dance. Accordingly, the man arrived and trained the boys. Yesterday, I called the warden and asked him, "The trainer came here and made us happy. How can we express our gratitude to him?" The warden said he had no idea. I said that we would give him 40,000 rupees toward his traveling expenses. In this manner, I give personal attention to every boy and every trainer.

You may think that Swami is somewhere and does not know what is happening, but Swami is here, there, and everywhere as the principle of the *Atma*. I give satisfaction to one and all, and take upon myself all the difficulties and losses that may arise out of your actions. But you are unable to understand this.

Collective Effort

All the teachers worked hard to make this Sports Meet a grand success. In spite of their advanced age, Radhasamy and Ramamurthi worked tirelessly and extended

their support to the students. They continue to serve in our Institute even after retirement. All have worked with unity. Where there is unity there is divinity. Once you have divinity with you, everything else will follow. The success of the Sports Meet is the result of collective effort.

There is no other Institute like ours. The unity, harmony, and love that you find here cannot be found anywhere else. Swami is the cause of all this. Swami's love has brought about this unity.

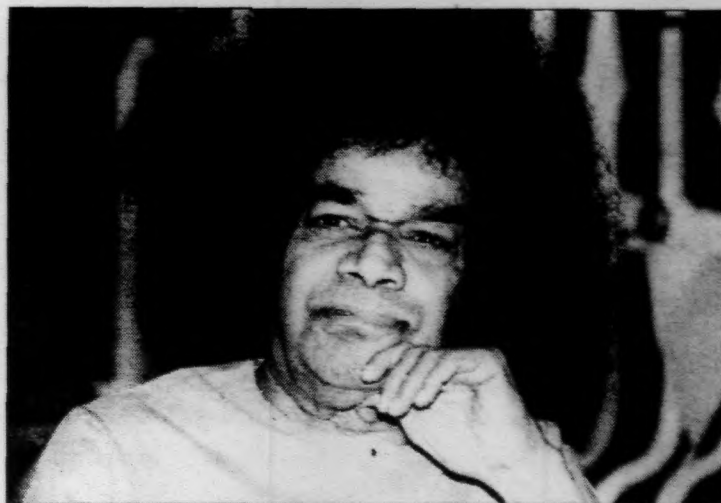
I am prepared to spend *crores* of rupees for the benefit of students. My only aim is to transform them into ideal citizens. Some people act in an un-grateful manner after receiving Swami's love in abundance. That is their fate. Uphold the name of the Institute wherever you go. That is what I desire from you. I am prepared to give you whatever you ask for. Many people who come here are very happy seeing our Institute.

The [women] students from the Anantapur Campus also have worked very hard. Truly speaking, those living in Puttaparthi are very fortunate because they are able to have Swami's *darshan*, *sparshan*, and *sambhashan* (seeing, touching, and listening to a holy person) everyday. But the Anantapur students do not enjoy such a privilege. It has been twelve years since I visited Anantapur, yet

they work away with steadfastness and devotion, convinced that Swami is always with them. Their devotion and sincerity will certainly yield rich rewards. Very soon I will visit Anantapur and confer bliss on all of them. There is a result for every action,

but one has to wait for the appropriate time.

Today many people are fear-stricken, thinking there is going to be a war between India and Pakistan. *No such war will take place.* Bharat will be blessed with



auspiciousness. Bharat is a sacred land and will be safe always. There may be minor skirmishes here and there. These days there is no unity even in a small family consisting of four members. In such a situation, how can a country with *crores* of population be free from minor conflicts? But there will be no war. All will stand united as one family. Pray wholeheartedly for the welfare of humanity:

Loka samastha sukhino bhavantu. (May all the people of the world be happy.) You can be happy only when the world is happy. There is an intimate and inseparable relationship between you and the world. Chant the divine name. Pray for the welfare of the world and participate in service activities.

—**Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**
January 14, 2002, Prasanthi Nilayam

Announcements

New SSEHV Parent Involvement Committee

The Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Advisory Board has added a new committee to facilitate its work with parents. Co-chaired by Patricia Bonacic and Hymon T. Johnson, this new Parent Involvement Committee has the following goals:

1. To assemble a committee of informed members who have a broad and practical knowledge base, commitment to parent education and Swami's teachings, effective and efficient presentation skills, and experience with parenting, parenting materials, and resources.
2. To conduct interactive workshops that: a) address the needs of expectant parents, parents of children of all ages, and others who anticipate becoming parents, and b) train facilitators for local Parent Support Circles.
3. To encourage the development of local Parent Support Circles to be organized and conducted by the parents themselves as facilitators.
4. To adapt existing materials, as needed, to create a general workshop curriculum focusing on the self-awareness of parents, family life, and parent involvement in their children's education based on Sai's teachings and the five human values.
5. To provide in-service training to teachers on parent involvement issues.

Sai reminds us that parenthood is not an end in itself; it is a sacred opportunity for achieving and surrendering to the spiritual goal of life. Thus, He suggests a combination of self-awareness in the parent and skillful application of practical child development techniques in order to bring forth the children's inherent divinity and reach the goal of life. Parent involvement in their children's school is a central factor. While both teachers and parents are seen as the primary influences on the child, the parents are viewed as the first and most lasting teachers.

If you are interested in knowing more or in participating in the work of this committee, and have a background that is complementary to its goals, please contact Trish at PatriciaBonacic@cs.com, 310-891-2239, or Hymon at hjohnson@antiochsb.edu, 805-968-7297, or 805-685-9883.

SSEHV Conferences and Programs

The Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Foundation and Advisory Board is so very pleased to announce all the exciting advances being made in bringing Sathya Sai's education program to Sai devotees as well as to the public in the USA.

Educare Conferences for Sai devotees were held in nine Regions, thus far. The last Regional Conference was held in May. These Educare Conferences have been extremely successful. Both SSE (Sathya Sai Education)

and SSEHV (Sathya Sai Education in Human Values) devotees have been very involved in these presentations.

In addition, the SSEHV training sessions have elicited great interest and response from Sai devotees. As a result of the above sessions, four proposals for the use of the SSEHV program in a few Montessori Schools and Community Centers were submitted. After going through the proper process for proposal writing, these four have been approved and are individually underway. These pilot projects are now being conducted in Chicago, IL, Corona, CA, St. Louis, MO, and the newest one in Ojai, CA. We expect further news on these projects with regard to evaluations and success stories. Another proposal is under consideration and very likely to be soon approved.

Additional SSEHV Updates

The SSEHV website is on the Internet and many positive reactions have been received. Expansion of this site is being worked on. This website can be reached by www.ssehvusa.org.

For those who wish to read more about the American SSEHV program two books are available from the Sathya Sai Book Center in Tustin (address, phone & fax numbers on page 35), *SSEHV Curriculum* (65 lesson plans) and *SSEHV Community Manual* (orientation to SSEHV). Hot off the press and also available at Tustin is the new *Sathya Sai Speaks on Education*, discourses and comments compiled by the Advisory Board's Elementary School Committee.

There is much more work ahead for the Advisory Board and its Committees. A number of future ideas are already in the planning stages.

If you are a devotee who is inspired by Swami's thrust on character development, won't you consider joining our effort by being part of one of the following:

1. Elementary School Committee
2. Secondary School Committee
3. Post Secondary Committee
4. Community Committee
5. Parent Involvement Committee

You may contact the SSEHV Foundation office at 714-368-9045 or through e-mail at ssehvusa@pacbell.net.

During our most recent visit to Swami, education plans for SSEHV in the USA received His blessings. Please join us so that we may continue to steer straight ahead and work toward the character development of all through new proposals, future training, good communication and new projects.

In His service with love,

—Bea Flaig,

Chairperson to the Advisory Board
Sathya Sai Education in Human Values
Foundation



*Announcements continue on
the next page...*

Announcements

Be Cautious

We have received numerous reports that a person by the name of Sugriv Singh has been speaking to Sai devotees in Canada and the West Indies, representing himself to be the chosen messenger and/or the embodiment of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Of course, this is absolutely false. This person has not been given any special assignments, powers, or responsibilities by Baba!

Be aware of self-proclaimed gurus who falsely say that they have special connections with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Swami has repeatedly declared that His relationship with all people is heart to heart, and that He will never appoint spiritual intermediaries between Himself and the people.

We advise this person and any others to desist from making such false claims. We also advise Sai devotees not to support the activities of such persons.

—Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust
Published in *Sanathana Sarathi*

Let's All Sing!

In April, 2002, Bhagavan told the college boys in Brindavan that they are not representing Him correctly because they were singing only Indian *Bhajans* (holy songs). Baba told them, in

no uncertain terms, that He represents and loves all religions, not just one. He said that they must learn to sing the holy songs of Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and all others. Bhagavan emphasized that all the Sathya Sai Baba Centers throughout the world should be doing the same. This does not mean that we must learn to sing in foreign languages; praise can be sung in your own native tongue.

So the message is clear for all followers and devotees to get busy and learn or brush up on those other holy songs and chants. *Sai Ram!*



South Central Region Conference

Dates: Sept. 27, 28 and 29

Place: Texas

Contact: Nmahadevan@aol.com

Study Circle Forum

Transformation through understanding

The time has arrived for a renaissance in study circle. The Sai organization in America has made huge strides in recent years in improving the quality and quantity of our devotional and service activities, but study circle has languished in many centers.

However, the transformation of the individual requires not only devotion and activity but also understanding of our own divine nature and the nature of the world. To attain vision of the *Atma* (Self) and the realization of our inner reality we need to understand the teachings of the saints and sages.

In recognition of this state of affairs, the Sathya Sai Baba Council of the USA created the position of National Study Circle Coordinator at its recent meeting in Los Angeles over the weekend of January 19 and 20, 2002. Reports from the regional presidents at that meeting made clear the fact that attention needs to be focused on this area in most centers.

As the newly-named national coordinator, I would like to propose an action plan that would include four phases. These phases will benefit from widespread sharing of the process and results. For this reason I have proposed to the *Sathya Sai Newsletter* that we create a "Study Circle Forum" in the newsletter to engage support, participation, and to share the benefits of our work.

1. Program Assessment. First we will collect information from centers and young

adult groups who have had success in study circles, to evaluate what is working and why. We will ask for input from all who would like to contribute. We need to understand how their study circles are meeting the needs of participants. I would like to have study groups submit to me articles describing the structure, materials, and process of their successful efforts. After review, I would like to share those success stories in the newsletter Study Circle Forum. I may be emailed at jonroof@aol.com or mail may be sent to me at PMB 318, 3661 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719.

2. Program Guidelines. After successful concepts are identified, a task force will formulate suggested study circle guidelines for the centers. The task force will consist of knowledgeable and experienced volunteers from successful circles. The guidelines would be a resource for the centers and a description of the best practices and materials from around the country. Several members of the national council have volunteered to help with the project and members from the regions, centers, and young adult groups are also requested to become involved. At the conclusion of this process, proposed guidelines will be presented to the national council for approval.

3. Training Workshops. After guidelines have been adopted, a series of leadership training workshops should be conducted at regional retreats or at meetings held

specifically for the purpose in every region. Training will be an ongoing and evolutionary process. Volunteers will develop the program and train others.

4. Resource Materials. As training proceeds, and on an ongoing basis, materials will be developed and distributed that meet the needs of study circle participants. We will recognize and address the specific questions and concerns of participants while also presenting material for a well-rounded course of study on the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Procedures will be implemented to make quality materials available on an ongoing basis.

In launching the first phase of our action plan, I would like those who submit articles to me about successful study circles to consider a number of essential points. These points address the most common obstacles to successful discussions:

1. How do you encourage equal and active participation by all members?
2. How do you prevent argumentation between participants?
3. How do you keep dominant members within their time limits?

4. How do you encourage presenters to keep their introduction short and from the heart, avoiding long readings and lectures?
5. How do you keep participants on topic?
6. What materials may be used as study materials?
7. Do you have a moderator and if so is the moderator permanent or rotated?
8. How is discussion initiated? With a question, quotation, subject...?
9. Do you follow the circle, giving each person a chance to speak in turn?

We also want to hear about the creative and innovative ways that groups have implemented study circles. All are welcome to make their voices heard. All input will be carefully and compassionately considered by a cross-section of devotees from all levels of the organization. Our aim is to foster the transformation of participants and to make clear the eternal principles of the ageless wisdom.

—**Jonathan Roof**
Tucson, Arizona

Not information, but transformation; not instruction, but construction should be the aim.... Every activity must be rendered valid and worthwhile by its contribution to the discovery of truth, both of the self and nature.

—**Sathya Sai Baba**
Sathya Sai Speaks. Vol IX, ch. 9

Pointers to divinity

continued from page 17

lead an honest life. Only then can you attain Godhead.

The main teaching of the culture of Bharat is to realize unity in diversity. But today people fragment unity into diversity because of their narrow-mindedness.

Embodiments of the divine *Atma*! Never give scope to the feelings of "I" and "mine." First know yourself. Question yourself, "Who am I?" Once you know who you truly are, you will realize the oneness of all. Once you realize that you are the embodiment of the *Atma*, you will know that all others are also embodiments of the *Atma*. However, in your daily life it is difficult to recognize this equality due to differences in professions.

Never React

What is *adhyatmikam* (spirituality)? Weeding out animal qualities and rising to the level of the divine constitutes true spirituality. *Adhyatmikam* refers to *adhi* (eternal) and *Atma*. Therefore, true *adhyatmikam* is that which relates to the eternal *Atma*. Recognizing the fact that I and you are one is true *adhyatmikam*.

When Dharmaraja offered Krishna the *agratambulam* (prime offering), the wicked Sisupala felt that Krishna did not deserve it. He abused Krishna endlessly, saying,

Do you think that you deserve this honor because you stole the saris of Gopikas when they were having a bath, or do you think that you deserve this because you played

pranks with the Gopikas. Stop this self-aggrandizement and be quiet!
(Telegu poem)

Krishna smilingly replied, "Yes, you are right; you speak truthfully."

Dharmaraja felt deeply hurt and fell at Krishna's feet, saying, "O Lord! How is it that you continue to smile in the face of such harsh criticism? You may be smiling, but I am shedding tears of sorrow."

Then Krishna replied, "Dharmaraja, praise or blame relate to the body, not to the *Atma*. Why should one feel depressed when criticized and elated when praised? In fact, we criticize our own body because it gives scope to various diseases and makes us suffer. Hence understand that whoever criticizes your body is in fact doing you a favor."

Dharmaraja was immensely satisfied with Krishna's reply and said, "Because there is a shortage of such teachers, people are afflicted by ignorance."

What about Duryodhana? He was no ignoramus. But in spite of knowing all (about right and wrong), he fell into the path of ignorance. He also asked Dharmaraja to keep his mouth shut.

What is silence? One should never speak ill of others. Strife does not arise out of silence.

Salute those who offend you. Don't return offense with offense. If you act in the same manner as your opponent, how can you become greater? While saying that the other is acting wrongly, will you be right if you act in the same manner? Never act in this

manner. Let those who commit offense continue their offensive behavior. You should never react.

Wish Well for All

Wish for the welfare of everyone. Our daily prayer is *Loka samastha sukhino bhavantu*. (May all the people of the world be happy!) When all are happy, you are included. We pray for the welfare, wealth, and health of all. Never wish for the misfortune of any other person. There is no room for hatred in this world. All are friends.

If you persist in this manner, wishing well for everyone, praying for their prosperity, you become an ideal [example] for the whole world. You are born in this world for this ideal only. There is a purpose behind the creation of every individual. That is why God created you, and for this you have been gifted with the capacity to love. Act according to your conscience. Consecrate to God every action of yours.

O Lord! That heart, which you have gifted me, all its actions are being offered back by me. What else do I have with which to worship your feet? Please accept this with my humble salutations. The one valuable gift that you have bestowed on me is love. It is my duty to share this love with all my fellow beings. That is the sign of my understanding your gift."
(Telegu poem)

People who are filled with anger, hatred, and envy will be shunned by all those who are near to them, including their spouses and

children. Hence, you should avoid these evil tendencies. Once you understand the principle of love, all these evil tendencies leave you alone. Humanness is divinity in essence. When children are born, they are naturally pure, but as they grow, they start accumulating more and more evil tendencies. These tendencies are of your own making. They will ultimately destroy your humanness.

Don't ruin your human nature. How sacred, how noble, how humble, and how valuable is humanness! Such noble humanness is willfully ruined by you. Never harm others for the sake of your selfish and greedy desires. Be happy at the happiness of others. Then only will you realize humanness. Being born a "man," don't turn "mean." Cruelty is the nature of animals. By hurting others, you lose your humanness and become a beast. When you threaten others, you become a wild beast. If someone scares you, you become the prey.

Be Doubly Blessed

You are neither a hunting beast nor a beast of prey. You are a human being. Never hurt anybody; cultivate an attitude of happiness in yourself. Then you will be doubly happy. The Lord is constantly saying, *So be it!* As you wish, so will it happen. If your intentions are evil, evil will result. If you are always filled with good intentions, they are equally blessed by God.

The consequences of all your actions will result in reactions, maybe not immediately, but definitely sooner or later. Therefore, we should live without hurting others or being harmed by others, and thus

lead a blissful life. Put your learning to good use. Give respect and be respected. This is true humanness. Love and be loved in return. Your education is meant to cultivate such virtues.

Academic Studies

Students study some narrow subject or another. Of what value is such specialization? All such academic undertakings are essentially negative. There is a saying in Telugu that a laundry person is better than a scholar. When the

laundry person collects clothing from your house, you make a detailed record of the number and type of clothes, if nowhere else, at least by a few marks on the wall. But the laundry people do not need any such devices. They carry all the information in their heads, and return your clothes to you duly washed and pressed. What scholarly study have those persons made?

Academic studies are not the only type of studies one should undertake. You should study positive things. Your education should benefit society at large. Only when you help others do you become pure.

Sacredness of Worship

Our ancients worshipped nature. It is nature that gives us food, clothing, and shelter. Not merely that, it also give us precious metals like gold and silver. So what is wrong

in worshipping nature? All the modes of worship that our ancients practiced were highly sacred. *Bhumatha* (Mother Earth), *gomatha* (Mother cow), *Vedamatha* (Mother Veda) and the *dehamatha* (physical mother) are to be revered.

As people have stopped worshipping God, we find chaos all over the world. People

are plunged in sorrow, as they have lost faith in the Self. What is the use of life without self-confidence? Worship of God alone can safeguard the nation. The country will be blessed with plenty

and prosperity, and people will lead happy lives once they start thinking of God.

We repeat the peace mantra thrice in our daily prayers. What does this mean? We should attain peace at three levels—physical, mental, and spiritual. There is no peace in the external world; we find only pieces. Peace is in fact within you. Make efforts to manifest your inner peace.

Embodiments of Love! Spend the whole night in chanting the holy name and spread this spiritual energy to the world at large. Who is Easwara? He is all-pervasive. Just as the wind blows freely everywhere, so also do we find the principle of *Easwara* pervasive. Share your love with all and propagate the divine name to the entire world.

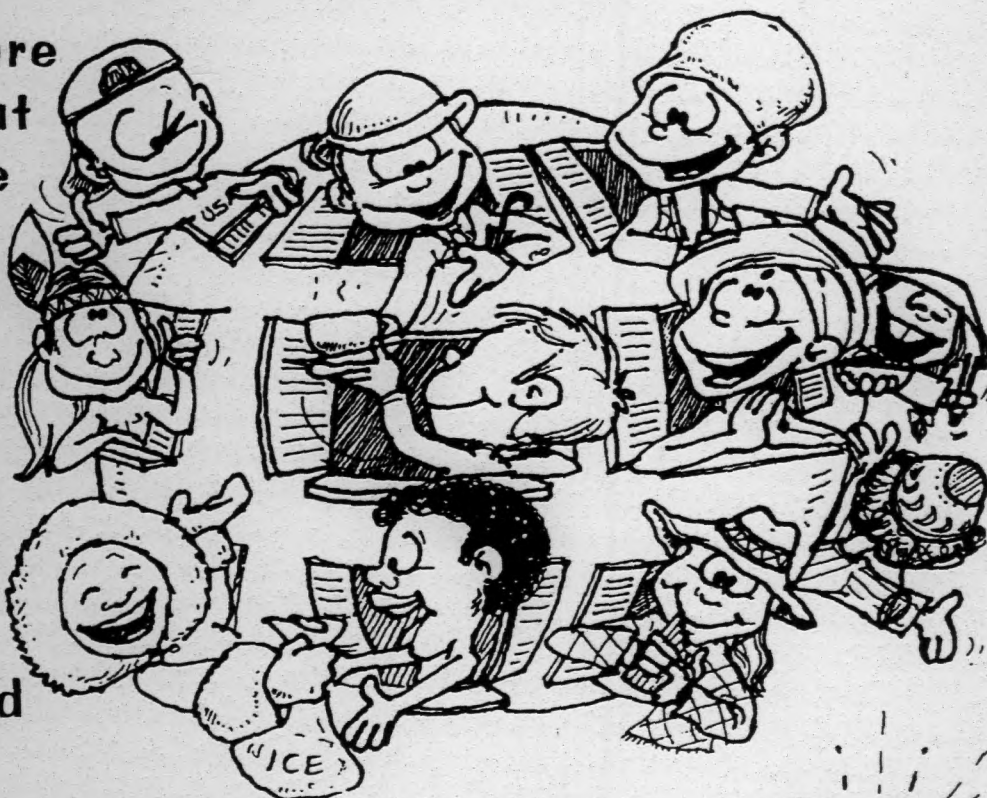
—**Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**
March 12, 2002, Prasanthi Nilayam

The World Is One House

The world is like a great mansion with many rooms. The rooms may be different, but there is only one house.

Likewise, there are many nations, but there is only one world. In this beautiful house of the world, with its rooms of different colors, let us behave like brothers and sisters.

Color the house and all the people.



What do you think it means when Sathya Sai Baba says, "The world is one house with many rooms?"



Do you have friends of different colors?

Are you kind and helpful when a new student comes to your school no matter what their color or ethnic background?

—Inspired by *Bal Vikas Magazine*:
For Children Ages 1 to 99

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New Arrivals

Dasara Discourses 1999 and 2000, published by the Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, India. This book offers 12 discourses by Sathya Sai Baba from the *Dasara* festivals. In soft cover, 169 pages. BA-117 \$4.00

Dasara Discourses 2001, published by Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, India. During the seven days of *Yagna* (rites), Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His discourses which began on October 20 and ended October 26, at Prasanthi Nilayam. Soft cover, 121 pages. BA-118 4.00

Divine Discourses on Easwaramma Day, 1983-2001, published by the Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, India. As most people know, Easwaramma was the mother of Sathya Sai Baba. These discourses are a powerful source of divine instructions to parents and children. The book clarifies the role of parents. In soft cover, 123 pages. BA-119 4.00

Food, My Inspiration from God by Caroline Percic. This book makes interesting reading for anyone who likes to eat. The volume contains comprehensive quotations on *Sathwic* (pure) food by Sathya Sai Baba, recipes, color photos of Sai, and illustrations. If you wonder about your diet, this book needs to be in the kitchen. Soft cover, 195 pages. BI-022 8.00

I Am I by Sri Ratan Lal. This powerful book is divided into three parts to tell us who we really are. Starting with simple spiritual stories, Sri Ratan Lal prepares us for a deeper understanding of the ego and the Self leading to the essence of Bhagavan's teachings. In soft cover, 70 pages. BI-103 3.00

Message of the Lord, as a practical philosophy, published by the Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, India. This volume is intended to help the reader understand not only the original *Bhagavad Gita*, but also the *Gita Vahini* and other related material in Sai literature. In soft cover, 696 pages. BI-101 10.00

Ocean of Love, published by Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, India. It offers pearls of wisdom from the discourses of Sathya Sai Baba and is complemented by beautiful photographs spanning several decades—a tribute to Baba's 75th birthday. Bound in hard cover, 247 pages. BI-037 18.00

Oneness of Divinity by Sri Ratan Lal. Sri Ratan Lal has been with Sathya Sai Baba since 1965. Bhagavan has given him spiritual instructions which led him onto the path of Self-inquiry. In time, Sri Ratan Lal was appointed by Swami to give spiritual talks to foreign devotees in the ashram. These *satsangs* were collected and compiled in the form of a book. In soft cover, 158 pages. BI-102 4.00

Sathya Sai Speaks on Education, published by the Sathya Sai Book Center of America. This book offers a compilation of the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba on education. In soft cover, 365 pages. BW-131 7.00

Audio CD's

Danish Divine Light, a CD of devotional songs compiled by the Sathya Sai Organization of Denmark. SCE-68 9.00

Voice of the One, a compilation of devotional songs sung by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. SCE-69 8.00

CD-ROM

My Life Is My Message: A Multimedia Journey to Love is an interactive CD-ROM compiled by the students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai Co-op Society, Brindavan, on the life and teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The majesty of His life is captured in text, illustrations, slides and video. It also includes songs sung by Sathya Sai Baba, and video clippings from different events. It has a virtual tour of different locations in Prasanthi Nilayam. Minimum system requirements: 640 by 480 resolution color display, 8X CD-ROM drive. For PC users: 90MHz or higher Pentium, 16 MB RAM and Windows 95. Mac users: Sytem 7.6.1. One CD-ROM. T-SCE 65 ... \$ 20.00

*You must read good books... But good books are now becoming rare. Cheap books and magazines give stories of bad lives dealing with crooks and cruel men, cheats and dacoits. * Keep away from such books; they will dirty the mind and fill it with anger, hate, and mischief. Read sacred books of your religion and other religions. Read the Mahabharatha, the Ramayana, the Bhagavatha, the Holy Bible, the Quran and other sacred books.*

—Sathya Sai Baba

Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. VII, ch. 12

**a class of criminals in India and Burma*

and Dental surgery. By 1998, as many as 30,725 inpatients and 412,123 outpatients have benefited from treatment at the hospital. The staff continues to give free service.

Another Super Specialty Hospital has been established in Whitefield, a suburb of Bangalore. It is even larger than the first Super Specialty Hospital and is focused on Cardiology, CTVS, Neurology, and Neuro-surgery. The care and the feeding of patients at both Super Specialty Hospitals is FREE.

• **Bhagavan on Water.** The impossible began to take shape with the creation of the Sri Sathya Sai Water Supply Project covering more than 1,000 villages in Ananthapur District by providing water to more than a million people who had lived on the edge of drought and despair. This enormous project continues and will one day supply all of the parched land of India with fresh, pure water.

• **Bhagavan on Religion:** He says *"I have come not to disturb or destroy any faith, but to confirm everyone in his own faith, so that the Christian becomes a better Christian, the Muslim a better Muslim, the Hindu a better Hindu, and the Buddhist a better Buddhist."*

The Editors and Staff of the **Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA** are grateful to Krishna (Kishore) and Manju Singhal of Ottawa, Canada for their fine brochure entitled, **Sri Sathya Sai Baba**, which is the inspiration for this brief summary of Baba's teachings and His activities. Only God could accomplish all this in India and throughout the world.

The colorful, artistic, 28 page brochure, **Sri Sathya Sai Baba**, is offered free while the supply lasts from the **Sathya Sai Book Center of America** (address below and on page 35).

To receive the bimonthly (six issues a year)

Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA

Please send a check or money order to: Sathya Sai Book Center of America,
305 West First Street, Tustin, California 92780-3108 USA

- ☐ One year subscription in the USA is \$6.00. Mexico and Canada are \$12.00, and all other countries are \$16.00 per year.
- ☐ Audio Cassette Tapes of the **Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA** are available in the USA only. Six tapes per year, subscription is \$18.00.
- ☐ **I am blind** and would like to receive the cassette tapes at no charge.

I have marked my selections and am enclosing \$ _____

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