

CONTROL OF SENSES IS THE REAL SADHANA

Embodiments of Love! Dear Children!

MY BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL. I AM happy that you all studied here right from the Primary School stage up to the 12th standard, obtained good marks and earned good name.

Divinity Permeates the Entire Creation

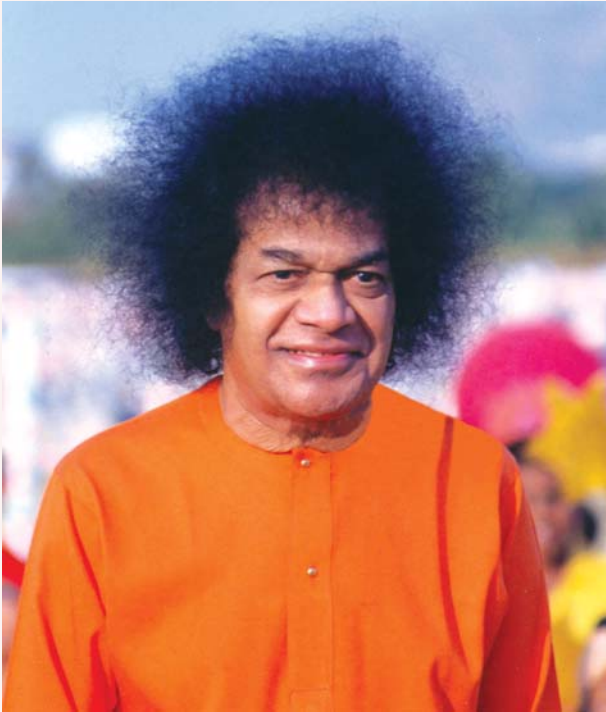
Right from the Primary School stage, you imbibed many good qualities like love, compassion, kindness and discipline. You acquired many talents and skills and developed noble character. Playing, singing and moving together, you all lived like brothers with mutual love and affection. However, there occurred a decline in these qualities of yours when you reached the Higher Secondary School stage. You can yourself see what

change has come about in you. All the same, your words are full of purity and devotion, and your presentation (just before Bhagavan's Discourse, the students made a musical presentation expressing their love and gratitude to Bhagavan) has made everybody happy. I am not saying that all the boys are following the wrong path. It is only a few boys who take to wrong ways and spoil their minds. You can judge for yourself how pure is your mind.

Human being is an amalgam of five components – body, mind, intellect, consciousness and senses. Since these five components are the very basis of his being, man has to keep them pure if he wants to proceed on the path of liberation. But, first and foremost, he has to cleanse his mind. It is a serious mistake to desire for that which does not belong to you. Whenever the mind craves for something, you should enquire first whether the particular thing belongs to you or someone else. When you know that it belongs to someone else, you should carefully avoid the temptation of possessing it. The mind has to be kept absolutely pure and sacred and free from all conflicts and controversies. All of you should develop this Jnana (knowledge) right from this early age. Unfortunately, people today are ruining their lives by harbouring all sorts of desires. This is sheer madness.

Whatever you do, do it with a sense of dedication and surrender to God. All the work

Truth is the very life-breath of a human being. Truth is God. Do not speak untruth. If only you follow truth in your life steadfastly, you can achieve everything. Truth is like a shield that will protect you. Truth is your support. If you give up such a noble quality of truth and speak untruth, how can you be called a human being? You should never give scope for falsehood in your life.



You are all pure gold. You are all golden children. Your words are sweet. But if your behaviour is bitter, then what is the use? Let your behaviour also be sweet in conformity with your words.

Wherever you go, live happily displaying exemplary conduct and behaviour as the students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions. You do not deserve to be called students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions merely because you wear white dress. In keeping with your white dress, keep your mind also pure and sacred.

you undertake must be carried out in this spirit. *Sarva Karma Bhagavad Preetyartham* (do all actions to please God). First of all, try to know, “Who am I?” The entire

universe, right from the microcosm to the macrocosm, is permeated by divinity. Be it a particle of sand or sugar, a mosquito or an elephant – all are the embodiments of divinity. God assumes all these forms. *Sarvam Bhagavanmayam* (everything is permeated by God). There is nothing in this universe which is not permeated by God. The entire creation is the manifestation of divinity. In fact, it is God alone who plays all the roles in this cosmic drama though the characters of the drama appear to be different donning various costumes. All dialogues and songs are also His only. Hence, whatever you do, whatever you see and whatever you say – everything is God. You have to realise this truth and conduct yourself accordingly.

Shun Divisive Tendencies

Unfortunately, today some people take to wrong ways because of their bad qualities, bad conduct, bad thoughts and bad outlook. Whomever you come across, treat him as the embodiment of divinity. Whatever you say, it should reflect divinity. When you conduct yourself in this sacred manner, that itself is Mukti (liberation). Conduct yourself in such a manner that neither you hurt others nor are you hurt by others. The words that you use should be sacred. You should not covet or steal others' property or wealth. Cultivate faith in the unity of divinity. Everything is divine. Unfortunately, some people are not able to develop such universal outlook. They harbour the feelings of mine and thine and create differences between people. The ancient history of India is replete with instances of the ill effects of such divisive tendencies.

You all know about the history of the Kauravas and the Pandavas as



described in the great epic Mahabharata. The Kauravas were the sons of Dhritarashtra and the Pandavas, of Pandu, the younger brother of Dhritarashtra. Both Dhritarashtra and Pandu were the sons of the same father. They were brothers. Their kingdom was one. Then, where did the fault lie? Their thoughts and aspirations were different. A malicious desire for annexing the entire kingdom for themselves on the part of the Kauravas resulted in evil thoughts and divisive tendencies. This was the cause of the war between the Kauravas and the Pandavas. Similar is the story of the two brothers Vali and Sugriva as described in the Ramayana. They were also born to the same father. While Vali enjoyed regal comforts in the city of Kishkindha, his younger brother Sugriva had to languish in the hills and forests. The differences between the two brothers resulted in a fierce battle between them.

You may do Japa (repetition of God's Name) and Tapa (penance) for months and years, but if you do not give up your divisive tendencies, there is no use. Such Tapa converts itself into mere Tamas (sloth and ignorance). Many people give up their Sadhana in the middle with a sense of frustration and despair, thinking that God is not merciful enough to reveal Himself before them in spite of doing Japa for many years. If you wish to have the vision of God, first and foremost you should develop oneness with God. In fact, your own mind is the form of God. People often question, "Where is God?" "Who is God?, etc." I would say, "Your mind is God." *Mana Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo* (mind is the cause for bondage and liberation of man). Both bondage and liberation occur due to the mind only.

Hence, the mind is God. Next comes the intellect. It is common to observe



The whole universe is one family. Hence, one has to cultivate such universal love. That is Atmic love. It is only when you cultivate such love, you deserve to be called a human being. Only then can you visualise the Atmatattwa (principle of the Atma). Devoid of love, if you go on cultivating evil qualities like anger, hatred, jealousy and feelings of difference between one another, you will be worse than an animal. Beasts and animals fight among themselves. If you also fight like them, then what difference is there between you and animals?

people praising a person of sharp intellect as an intellectual. But, God alone is true intellectual. Not only our mind and intellect but our Chitta (mind-stuff) also manifests divinity. Once a great devotee sang, "Oh God! Let me offer my worship to You with Chitta Shuddhi" (mental purity).

You can Control Your Senses

Just as the mind, intellect and Chitta are permeated by divinity, so also are the senses. Hence, you should not taint your senses with Kama, Krodha (desire, anger), etc. Kama signifies desire. We should desire only God and nothing else. We should love only God. That alone is true love. Love for people and worldly possessions cannot be termed true love. That is only worldly love. If you have love for God, you will have everything else added to it. All your desires should be God-oriented. Desire only to please

God. Even if you love an individual, do not treat him as a mere mortal. Visualise the divinity within him.

There is no object other than the Panchabhutas (the five elements of earth, water, fire, air and ether) in this universe. You will not find a sixth element, however much you may try and explore. For example, this is a hand consisting of five fingers. There is no sixth finger. In case someone has a sixth finger, he will have to be taken to the hospital for removing it by surgery. Similarly, we all have five senses. What is Mukti (liberation)? Liberation lies in the control of the senses. Unless one controls one's senses, liberation is not possible. It is foolish to think that God is somewhere at a distant place. He is within you permeating the five senses. So, sanctify the five senses.

It is only the senses that are responsible for our pleasure and pain, good and bad. Hence, first and foremost control your senses. You may ask, "Swami! Is it possible for us?" I am emphatically saying, it is possible, provided you make an effort with firm determination. When you have the capacity to please God and attain His grace, sense control is not a big task for you. It is a comparatively small task. Unless one controls one's senses, one does not deserve to be called a human being. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). To be born as a human being is a rare gift of God. Having obtained this rare gift, one should strive to achieve sense control. If you allow even one of the five senses to go out of control, you will lower yourself to the level of an animal. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). Having attained such a rare and sacred birth of a human being,

how foolish it is to say that you cannot control your senses? One who goes by the dictates of the senses is a Rakshasa (demon), verily! In fact, such a person is worse than a Rakshasa. One has to evolve oneself into a noble human being.

All are the Children of God

You may be fond of your wife and children. But this does not mean that you should hate others. You should not entertain the feeling that so and so is mine and others are not. All are the embodiments of divinity! All are the children of God. All the people in this world are intimately related to each other. Whatever object you come across in this world, it belongs to God only. It does not belong to any particular individual. In every object, every being, divinity is immanent. *Viswam Vishnu Swarupam* (the entire universe is the embodiment of Lord Vishnu). The whole universe is one family. Hence, one has to cultivate such universal love. That is Atmic love. It is only when you cultivate such love, you deserve to be called a human being. Only then can you visualise the Atmatattwa (principle of the Atma). Devoid of love, if you go on cultivating evil qualities like anger, hatred, jealousy and feelings of difference between one another, you will be worse than an animal. Beasts and animals fight among themselves. If you also fight like them, then what difference is there between you and animals? In fact, anger and hatred are not the qualities of a human being.

The feelings of difference originate in man when he considers himself different from God. Where there is a feeling of difference, there hatred raises its head. Whatever activity you undertake, it should be done in a spirit of dedication to God. We extol



Lord Easwara as *Hiranyagarbhaya Namah* (I offer my salutations to the golden-wombed Lord). He is the embodiment of gold. Here gold signifies immutability. You are all golden children. But, you forget your real nature and associate yourself with dust and rust. Hence, noble souls incarnate in this world now and then to transform you and make you realise your innate divinity. However, when a noble soul embarks upon such a mission, some people doubt his motives, saying, "It is all his



foolishness. Can earth become gold? Can sand become sugar?" Modern man is full of doubts and doubts! What could be the reason for these doubts? It is only when one thinks that one is separate from God that doubts arise.

It is a well known fact that a vessel which is completely full is steady. Similarly, God is the repository of all knowledge and hence He is always steady. People who



come here have many experiences. (Swami called a student onto the dais). I am aware of the past, present and future of every individual, irrespective of his caste, religion and place of birth. Some people who come here may think, "Perhaps Swami does not know who I am." But, there is nothing that I do not know. Even though I know everything, I pretend as if I do not know. (Swami pointing to the student) The parents and brothers and sisters of this boy

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visited Prasanthi Nilayam quite some time ago. I called all of them for an interview and said to the father, "My dear! The mother of these children may not survive for long. In fact, she may breathe her last even before you reach your village. You don't worry. I will take up the responsibility of all your children."

The children started crying. I told them, "Don't cry. Why fear when I am here?"

(loud applause) I will look after everything.” From that day onwards, I have been looking after them as promised. The girls are all married. All the children have been provided with due requirements. None of them faced any difficulty. There is one boy among our band group. He was very young when he came here along with his parents. I called him and told him, “My dear! You don’t need to worry for anything. I am your father, mother and everything. I will look after you in every respect.” Whenever he came here, I used to call him and talk to him, instilling a sense of security and confidence in him. Now all the members of the family are leading a happy life. This boy was very young then. Now, he has grown up. Thus, I have been showering My love and grace on one and all, whether I talk to them or not.

What is My property? Love! Love! Love! I have no anger whatsoever. It is only to correct an erring individual that I pretend to be angry. But, I am not angry with anyone. My entire body is suffused with pure love. *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). Who is Easwara? Easwara is not the one who is portrayed as wearing Rudraksha (sacred beads) garlands around his hands and serpents around his neck. It is only a form that is created for the common man to comprehend divinity to some extent. The various names and forms like Easwara, Vishnu, Parvati, Lakshmi, etc., were created to enable the common man to worship God in some form or the other. In fact, every human being is an embodiment of Easwara. There is nothing in this world which is not permeated by Easwara. All names and forms originated from Easwaratwa (Divinity).

Be Ideal Students

Divinity is not limited to one name and form. People say they had the

vision of Rama, Krishna, etc., but it is only their imagination! However, divinity is only one. Unable to comprehend divinity, people ascribe several names and forms to it and get deluded. It is the devotees who change their chosen deities frequently. But, God does not change. God is one. He is permanent and eternal.

Real Sadhana lies in gaining control over the five senses and realising one’s divine reality. In fact, it is only the one who has gained control over the five senses can comprehend divinity. One has to undertake that Sadhana which enables one to gain control over one’s senses. There is little gain in doing spiritual practices like Japa and Dhyana (repetition of God’s name and meditation) if the senses are not under control. For example, even if you engage yourself in Japa and Dhyana closing your eyes, your monkey mind will be roaming about in all the three worlds. People do not realise this truth and engage themselves in different types of Sadhana. They should try to realise the divinity that permeates all the five elements in the universe. In fact, there is nothing in this world except divinity. Whatever you see, whatever you hear, everything is permeated by divinity.

God does not observe any differences. God is Love. Love is one. There are several thousand people gathered in this Hall. However, the love that is immanent in all of them is one. There may be differences in the names and forms of people and their relationships, but their innate divinity is one and the same. Hence, all should lead a life filled with love like brothers and sisters. In educational institutions where the system of co-education is in vogue, the boys and girls should move like brothers and sisters. They should develop



equal-mindedness, and should not observe any differences on account of gender. When the children reach the Higher Secondary School stage, these differences may arise in them. But they should not entertain such differences. Whoever entertains such differences is sure to fail in the examination of divine love. There is nothing great in passing examinations in the worldly sense. Everyone can pass, provided he puts in a little effort. Real achievement lies in passing the examination of divine love, i.e., seeing God in fellow beings and considering all of them as divine. He who passes the examination of divine love is the most successful person in life.

All are God's children. All are the reflections of the Hiranyagarbha present in the human body. Hence, from now onwards all of you should live like brothers and sisters with mutual love and affection. Then only you deserve to be called ideal students. But, I do not find in the present-day students such feelings of kinship. Instead, they are cultivating differences such as, "I am different and you are different." Never entertain the feelings of hatred and anger at any point of time. Anger should be controlled and hatred, given up. Your safety and welfare lie in controlling anger. When the controls on a railway station are not functioning properly, it can cause rail accidents. Similarly, the mind is the controller of all our thoughts and feelings. Hence, if the mind is controlled, the entire body comes under our control.

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you go, live happily displaying exemplary conduct and behaviour as the students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions. You do not deserve to be called students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions merely because you wear white dress. In keeping with your white dress, keep your mind also pure and sacred. Only then will you become ideal students. Swami will then be constantly with you, in you, around you. I am prepared to give everything to such students. I can sacrifice even My life for them. In fact, I am protecting many people in several ways; but, no one has realised this point till today.

Earn the Grace of God

Develop firm faith that Atmatattwa (principle of the Atma) is Iswaratwa (Divinity). God is the indweller of all beings. How can you be called a human being when you do not have faith in the divinity of man? *Love is God; live in love.* Your love should not be limited to an individual or your family members. You should share it with all. If only you develop such broad-mindedness, you can become a true leader and set an ideal to others. (When Swami enquired of the students whether they had faith in Swami's words, all of them unanimously responded by saying loudly, "Yes, Swami!"). It is not enough if you just pay lip service by saying 'yes'. The conviction must come from the depth of your heart. You commit a mistake and say 'sorry'. That is not enough. You should desist from repeating the same mistake.

Truth is the very life-breath of a human being. Truth is God. Do not speak untruth. If only you follow truth in your life steadfastly, you can achieve everything. Truth is like a shield that will protect you. Truth is your support. If you give up such a noble quality of truth and speak untruth, how



can you be called a human being? You should never give scope for falsehood in your life. God is the only leader in this world. He is the only judge. It is only God who can judge what is just and what is unjust. You should not forget such an omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient God.

Do not entertain the feelings of mine and thine. Develop equal-mindedness. Live together happily, pass the examination and earn a good name. (Bhagavan created a gold ring with a green stone embedded in it and gave it to the student standing in front of Him). Everyone should thus earn the grace of God. Green colour is the sign of peace and prosperity. I wish that all of you attain peace, prosperity, love, devotion and grace of God. When you get rid of your bad qualities, Swami will always be with you. Divinity cannot be attained merely by offering prayers and doing Bhajans. Along with these Sadhanas, you must also develop a pure heart and offer it to God.

God is present in you in the form of five senses. Considering God as your everything and sole refuge, dedicate your senses to Him. This is an easy method to reach God. When you follow such an easy path, you will attain Moksha (liberation). After all, what is Moksha? Moha Kshaya is Moksha (removal of attachment is liberation). There is no use chanting "Ram, Ram, Ram ..." when your mind is full of Moha (attachment). Whatever work you undertake, consider it as God's work. Whomever you come across, consider him as an embodiment of God. Even the beggar who comes to beg at your door is an embodiment of God. Whether one is a king, an emperor or a beggar, the same divinity is present in everyone. Dedicate your life to win the love and grace of God. Undertake

every activity as an offering to God. Do your studies also with a sense of surrender to God. You will surely secure 1st class. I am happy to find that you are all good boys. But it is necessary for you to maintain the same good behaviour in Higher Secondary School also, as you did in the Primary School.

Let Me remind you that the teachers in our Higher Secondary School will not allow you to go on the wrong path. They will check your undesirable behaviour with firmness. They have nothing against anybody, but they are duty bound to put you on the right track. If a teacher shirks his responsibility and condones your bad behaviour without giving punishment, then he is a 'Guddi Guru' (blind teacher). He cannot be called a Guru in the real sense. The role of the headmaster in the school is also very important. He is the head of the school. He should oversee the work of all the teachers and correct them when they make even small mistakes.

Education does not mean simply reading of books. There is no greatness in acquiring degrees. It lies in attaining the Divine. Only then will your life become sanctified and your education, meaningful. Your parents will also be happy. Your parents have admitted you in Sri Sathya Sai educational institution with great hopes. You should not disappoint them. You should make all efforts to please your father, mother, teacher and God. Make your life meaningful and sacred by good thoughts, good qualities and good conduct.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*")

– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 23rd February 2006.



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Story of Shirdi Sai in Burra Katha

THE FOLK ART OF BURRA KATHA came alive in Sai Kulwant Hall when the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented the story of Shirdi Sai Baba in this ancient art on the afternoon of 9th March 2006 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Three students in traditional Burra Katha dress unfolded the story of Shirdi Sai Baba through lively dialogues and sweet songs sung to the accompaniment of traditional simple musical instruments to the delight of devotees and students in the Hall. The programme which began at 4.35 p.m. came to a close at 5.25 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the students in the end. He also gave them the coveted opportunity of photographs with Him.

Devotional Music by Music College Students

The students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music organised a programme of vocal devotional music on the afternoon of 13th March 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall, presenting sweet Mira Bhajans and other devotional songs in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Commencing with Ganesh Vandana, the students filled each heart with deep devotion by singing soulful Mira Bhajans like "Mein To Leeno Govind Mol", "Pag Ghunghru Baandh Mira Nachi Re" and "Payo Ji Mein Ne Rama Ratan Dhana Payo", etc., with the accompaniment of sweet instrumental music. The programme which started at 4.05 p.m. kept the

audience enraptured for nearly one hour and came to a close at 5.10 p.m.

Talks by Eminent Educationists

Two eminent educationists addressed the students and devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 12th March 2006. Renowned educationist and former Vice Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj and Annamalai universities, Prof. S.V. Chittibabu, Member, Governing Body of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning gave his talk first. Prof. Chittibabu began his talk by narrating his first experience of Bhagavan's Divinity when Bhagavan not only told him without his asking that he had problem in his head, but instantaneously cured his chronic headache also by applying Vibhuti on his forehead. The learned speaker observed that Bhagavan has incarnated on earth to rescue humanity from the chaotic condition to which it has drifted. Bhagavan, he said, has been teaching us by His words and example to serve mankind with selflessness and purity of heart because if one was pure in heart, everything else would follow. Bhagavan, he said, has been expressing His love for mankind by relieving their suffering through His humanitarian projects and in so many other ways.

The second speaker was the Warden of Anantapur Campus of the Institute, Prof. (Smt.) Jayalakshmi Gopinath, another old and ardent devotee of Bhagavan. Prof. Gopinath reminisced her old days spent in Puttaparthi and described how lovingly Bhagavan interacted with His grandfather Kondama Raju who was simplicity personified. He was one of those fortunate persons



who recognised Bhagavan's Divinity during His childhood days, she said. Describing her experiences of those early days, the learned speaker told how she for the first time heard Bhagavan declare emphatically "I am God". She also described the love, simplicity and nobility of Mother Easwamma with whom she had the rare fortune to interact many times. Dwelling on the message of Bhagavan to mankind, she said, Bhagavan sums up His message when He says, "Be Good, See Good, Do Good".

Holi at Prasanthi Nilayam

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Bihar and Jharkhand organised two programmes at Prasanthi Nilayam, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon to celebrate the joyous and colourful festival of Holi on 15th March 2006. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of celebrations, was beautifully decorated on this occasion. Besides floral decorations on the dais, colourful buntings covered the performing area in the Hall and many banners in the entire length and breadth of the Hall displayed the message of Holi and teachings of Bhagavan.

On the morning of 15th March 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.35 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the School and Institute students. The programme commenced with a beautiful dance and song expressing gratitude to Bhagavan soon after Bhagavan occupied His chair on the dais. What followed this was a medley of dances, folk songs, Holi songs and an excellent Qawali presented by the Bal Vikas students of Bihar and Jharkhand. Soulful music, joyous

songs full of devotion, rich variety of colourful costumes of the performers and their scintillating dances immersed all in the ecstasy of Holi and filled the entire milieu with colour of love, devotion and joy. Bhagavan showered His love and blessings on the performers at the end of the programme and gave them the coveted opportunity of group photos with Him. This was followed by Bhajans. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.00 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

Bhakta Kavi Vidyapati: A Play

In the afternoon, Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Bihar and Jharkhand presented a play on the life of Vidyapati, a famous poet and Siva devotee of Mithila, Bihar. The play commenced at 4.15 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. It depicted the deep and intense devotion of Vidyapati for Lord Siva who came to serve him in the form of Uzna to do daily chores in his house. The identity of the Lord became manifest when Uzna produced water from his locks to quench the thirst of Vidyapati in a jungle. When Vidyapati decided to merge in the Ganga, it changed its course to



An excellent devotional song being rendered by the youth of Bihar and Jharkhand as part of the play on Vidyapati.

meet him in response to his intense prayers. Powerful acting of the youth, beautiful dialogues interspersed with teachings of Bhagavan, appropriate background commentary, perfect choreography and simplicity of the story brought forth the power of devotion showing that the Lord can go to any extent to save and protect His true devotee and can even change the laws of Nature in answer to the prayers originating from his pure heart. The play concluded at 5.05 with a very beautiful devotional song depicting the theme of the play. At the end of the play, Bhagavan blessed the performers and posed for group photos with them. He also created a gold ring for the youth who enacted the role of Vidyapati. Bhajans after the play were also led by the devotees of Bihar and Jharkhand. The holy festival of Holi came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.05 p.m.

The Inward Path: A Journey to Sai

On the afternoon of 27th March 2006, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam presented this excellent programme conveying the essence of the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba through dialogues, skits and group songs in Telugu, English and Hindi. The presentation made in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall showed how even the school students had thoroughly grasped the subtle truths taught by Bhagavan for man's inward journey to Divinity which they could communicate effectively. The programme which started at 4.05 p.m. came to a close at 4.45 p.m. In the end, Bhagavan blessed the participants and posed for photographs with them.

Bhakta Chaitanya: A Drama

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School presented a drama on the life and teachings of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu on the afternoon of 29th March 2006. The drama portrayed through powerful dialogues, appropriate commentary, sweet lyrics and excellent acting of the students how Chaitanya adopted the path of devotion after his initiation and attained the vision of Lord Krishna through his deep devotion and intense yearning.



A scene from the drama presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam on the life of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Picking up the strands of his life story from his childhood, the drama depicted the main events of this great devotee of the Lord which included the humbling of the arrogant scholar who claimed himself to be world conquerer in learning and the transformation of two notorious rowdies Jagai and Madhai. The drama which began at 3.40 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close at 4.40 p.m. Bhagavan blessed the cast at the end of the drama and posed for photographs with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the student who enacted the role of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.



INTENSE YEARNING EARNS DIVINE GRACE

Dear Students!

ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD yearn for the proximity of God and their ultimate merger with Him. This yearning is not new; it has been there since the beginning of human history. In accordance with this yearning to see God and merge with Him, sages and seers in the past extolled Him in many ways, contemplated upon Him and performed intense penance. This is truly an

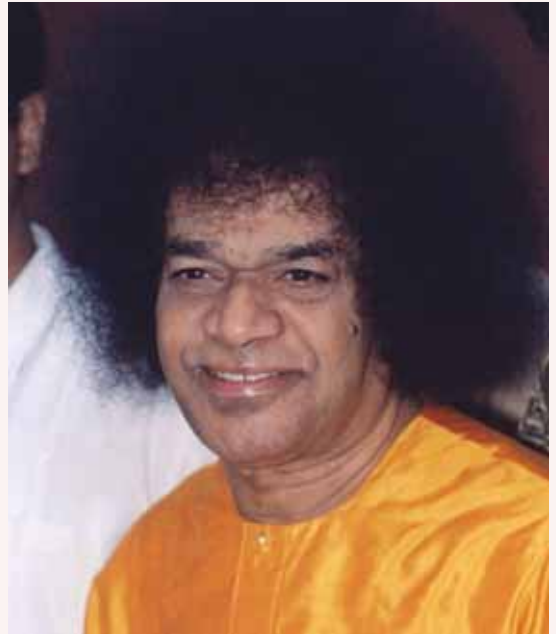
was not enough, he propounded the nine-fold path of devotion which all the devotees of God could follow for their redemption: *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender).

God can accomplish any task. Sometimes, He may give Darshan to some people, while others may not receive this grace. Much depends upon their mental attitude. Cultivate unflinching faith in God. Many sages and renunciants yearned for the Darshan of God, but only a few could win that grace by virtue of their unflinching faith and single-minded devotion.

ancient tradition which has been passed on from one generation to another.

God Incarnates to Transform Man

Sage Narada sang the glories of God and recited the Divine Name incessantly. Thinking that the chanting of the Divine Name merely for one's own satisfaction



One day, Sage Narada prayed to Lord Narayana "Lord! We are chanting Your Divine Name, but its essence is in You. Our life will be sanctified only when You bless us to experience the sweetness of the essence of the Divine Name." Some people misunderstood the prayer of Sage



Narada and started doubting the efficacy of Namasmarana in attaining God. There were some who criticised Narada. They said, limiting of Sadhana to mere chanting of the Divine Name is a sign of laziness. Arguments and counter arguments continued. Such differences of opinion have been there since ancient times. Some people told Narada that they were not able to visualise God in spite of the fact that they followed the path shown by him. Narada replied, "You can have the grace of God in proportion to the intensity of your yearning for Him." Each individual in this world follows his own chosen path according to his nature and taste. No one has the right to criticise others. God is one who resides in the hearts of all!

Radha intensely prayed for the proximity of Lord Krishna. She had a sister by name Prabha who had no such intense yearning. She was always in the company of her husband. She could not bear her separation from him even for a moment. On the other hand, Radha could not bear her separation from Krishna. The conduct and attitude of the two sisters was contradictory to each other. So, Radha prayed to Krishna to change Prabha's mind and develop devotion in her for Him. Krishna, however, counselled patience saying, "Why do you worry? I will do it at an appropriate time." Krishna performed many Leelas (divine pranks) to bring about transformation in the hearts of people. He showed some of His Leelas to Prabha also. Since Radha was longing for the transformation of her sister, Krishna told her, "You wanted Me to transform your sister and develop devotion in her. She has seen some of My Leelas. In keeping with the saying, *Brahma Vid Brahmaiva Bhavathi*

(one who realises Brahma will become Brahman verily), she will herself become an embodiment of divinity. First of all, one has to get rid of Bhrama (delusion) if one wants to realise Brahma (God). I am Brahman. I am beyond both Dushan and Bhushan (blame and praise). For Me both praise and blame are one."

God makes people realise His divinity to bring about transformation in them. In course of time, there was a perceptible change in the attitude of Prabha. She was now always in the company of Radha and both spent their time happily in the divine proximity of Krishna. They used to share this divine experience daily. Thus, Krishna could bring about a change in Prabha by showing His divine Leelas to her. God is unblemished and pure. In fact, He corrects the mistakes of the devotees and takes them into His fold. He will not distance Himself from anyone. Lord Krishna is *Leelamanusha Vighraha* (God in human form). Both Radha and Prabha firmly decided that they would not leave Krishna under any circumstances. Earlier Krishna told Radha, "Radha! Human beings are entangled in Maya (illusion). They are deluded to think that God in human form is also a human being like them. You cannot develop love towards a person without developing attachment to him. This is true in the case of God in human form also. Hence, first you will have to develop attachment to a particular form of God in order to love God. God assumes many forms so that people may develop attachment to the form of their choice. However, God is unblemished and embodiment of purity."

None can fathom the Leelas of Lord Krishna. Sometimes, He manifested His full divine glory. At other times, He



behaved like an ordinary human being. Nevertheless, Krishna was Krishna, God in human form! In fact, even those who moved constantly in the company of their dear Lord and who were witnesses to His many divine Leelas could not fully realise His divine nature. The question that people asked often was why Krishna should perform such divine Leelas. He did this only to develop intense attachment to His form in the minds of His devotees and thereby develop devotion in them. He had no desires at all excepting this. The constant company of Radha developed intense devotion in her sister Prabha. As is the company, so is the transformation. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are!* Accordingly, Radha and Prabha became one in the end. Prabha's other name was Chandrika. Her mother used to call her Prabha, but others called her Chandrika.

Divine Will is Immutable

It is very difficult to bring about transformation in human mind. It is only God who can accomplish this. Krishna furthered His Divine Mission by transforming many people. The Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavata describe how God brings about transformation in people to redeem their life. Many people approach Me and pray, "Swami! Please change the mind of my son. He has developed hatred towards his parents for some reason; we do not know why. Normally, he is a good boy. He never takes to bad ways. Please Swami! Change his mind so that he will behave well towards his parents." A mind is a mind after all! *Manomoolam Idam Jagat* (the mind is the basis for the objective world).

A knotted gnarled tree trunk may be made straight as a pole,

A shapeless hunk of rock may be carved to form a beautiful idol,

But, is there anyone who can change human mind? (Telugu Poem)

It is beyond the power of man to change the mind of others. In fact, he is unable to change even his own mind. Under these circumstances, man should develop firm faith in God. When our faith in God is firm, God will help and protect us.

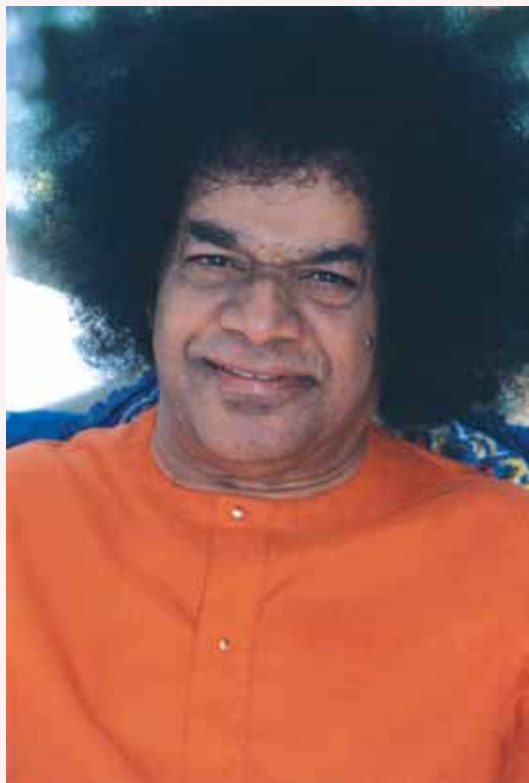
Divinity is not confined to any form. It is a power, and that power is infinite. This infinite power can accomplish any difficult task. God may assume any number of forms, but the divine power is only one. The same Atmatattwa (principle of the Atma) that is residing in this body as the indweller is present in every human being as well. For example, you may refer to the electric current as DC or AC, but the basic characteristic of the current is the same. Similarly, the Atmatattwa is the same in every human being. Considering the Prapti (deservedness) of the concerned individuals, God brings about transformation

You may call God by any name – Venkateswara, Rama, Krishna or Sai Baba. Only names differ, but God is one. Some people may think that God assumed the human form of Rama. Then He assumed the form of Krishna. God may assume any number of forms, but He is always one. He remains changeless irrespective of the form He assumes. There is change in your perception of God. God's Sankalpa (Will) is immutable.

in them. Transformation of the human mind cannot be brought about by man. It is not possible by any Mantra (incantation), Tantra (esoteric doctrine) or Yantra (mystic diagram). It is only when God wills so, it becomes possible. God can accomplish anything and everything. He can be present anywhere and everywhere. In keeping with the declaration

equals that of God. God's love is changeless. He may assume any number of forms, but His love towards human beings remains unchanged. *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (God is attributeless, pure, final abode, eternal,

Human beings are entangled in Maya (illusion). They are deluded to think that God in human form is also a human being like them. You cannot develop love towards a person without developing attachment to him. This is true in the case of God in human form also. Hence, first you will have to develop attachment to a particular form of God in order to love God. God assumes many forms so that people may develop attachment to the form of their choice. However, God is unblemished and embodiment of purity.



Ekam Eva Adviteeyam Brahma (Brahman is one, without a second), He is one. Lord Krishna was one, but the Kauravas and the Pandavas looked at Him differently. God does not change. If He changes, the whole universe will change. It is a serious mistake to think that God is subject to change. God is changeless, eternal and unblemished. None can change such a Paramatma (Supreme Self). It is not easy to comprehend divinity.

Embodiments of Love!

Divine love is unique and unparalleled. No human being's love

unsullied, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). You may call God by any name – Venkateswara, Rama, Krishna or Sai Baba. Only names differ, but God is one. Some people may think that God assumed the human form of Rama. Then He assumed the form of Krishna. God may assume any number of forms, but He is always one. He remains changeless irrespective of the form He assumes. There is change in your perception of God. God's Sankalpa (Will) is immutable. He can transform



the whole world with His Sankalpa. But He does not want to do it in such a manner.

Divine Grace on Swami Purushothamananda

Embodiments of Love!

Cultivate pure love; for, purity is unity and unity is divinity. Let your individual love be transformed into pure love for God. This divine love will help you to experience the Divine. Sometimes, people have a doubt whether God's love undergoes change. Never, God's love will never change. It is steady and strong. It will always remain unchanged. God can accomplish any task. Sometimes, He may give Darshan to some people, while others may not receive this grace. Much depends upon their mental attitude. Cultivate unflinching faith in God. Many sages and renunciants yearned for the Darshan of God, but only a few could win that grace by virtue of their unflinching faith and single-minded devotion.

When I visited Rishikesh, I gave Darshan to Swami Purushothamananda living in the Vasishtha Guha (cave) located on the way to Badrinath in the Himalayas. He was doing Tapas, living alone in that cave. He used to keep a small oil lamp in that cave. The cave was located a little away from the road point. He used to buy milk and make some tea with it. That was his only food. Rest of the time, he was immersed in Tapas. Days rolled by. One day, he came to know that Swami had come to stay in the Sivananda Ashram for a few days. He was longing to have Swami's Darshan. He, therefore, sent a small chit through a messenger praying, "Please come Bhagavan and grant me Your Darshan." I was aware of his intense devotion towards Swami. As soon as I saw this chit, I immediately rushed to Vasishtha cave

to bless him with My Darshan. Purushothamananda was extremely happy on seeing Me. He wanted to spend a few minutes alone with Me. He, therefore, advised Kasturi to go inside and have a look at the place. Kasturi, with his journalistic inquisitiveness saw everything. Purushothamananda fixed his gaze on Me and was lost in bliss. After a few moments, he regained his normal self. Purushothamananda requested Me to stay for one more day. The very next day, I visited Purushothamananda again. After receiving My blessings, he went into Samadhi (superconscious state). After My return to Sivananda Ashram, Swami Sivananda was a bit perturbed that I visited Purushothamananda's cave twice and did not find much time to spend in the Sivananda Ashram. Everyone was happy to read in newspapers that I had visited the Ashram of Swami Purushothamananda on two days. I give happiness to one and all. Your happiness is My happiness.

On My second visit to Vasishtha cave, I took a piece of paper from Kasturi and wrote a particular date for My next visit to Purushothamananda's Ashram. On the scheduled date, Purushothamananda took a holy bath in the Ganga and was eagerly waiting for My Darshan. Deeply lost in contemplation on My Divine Form, he had divine vision after some time. A few minutes later, he left his mortal coil in that deep Samadhi state itself. I was informed by a telegram that Purushothamananda had merged in Swami. I confirmed the news saying, "Yes, yes". Strangely, his birthday and the day on which he attained Samadhi were one and the same.

Later on, when the door of the Vasishtha

Continued on page 115...



JOYOUS UGADI FESTIVAL

THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF UGADI became doubly blessed when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba entered His new abode adjacent to Poornachandra on the morning of 30th March 2006.

Sweet notes of Nadaswaram and holy chants of Vedic Mantras welcomed Bhagavan when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.00 a.m. in His sparkling yellow robe to bless the devotees on the auspicious day of Ugadi. Sai Kulwant Hall and Bhagavan's residence were tastefully decorated with flowers, festoons and buntings on this happy occasion. While a mega size Kalasha in the centre of Sai Kulwant Hall marked the auspiciousness of the occasion, decorations with plantain leaves and sugarcane from new crop on all its gates augured plenty and prosperity. Special decorations however were done in Bhagavan's



Bhagavan's new abode glittering with decorative lights on Ugadi night.



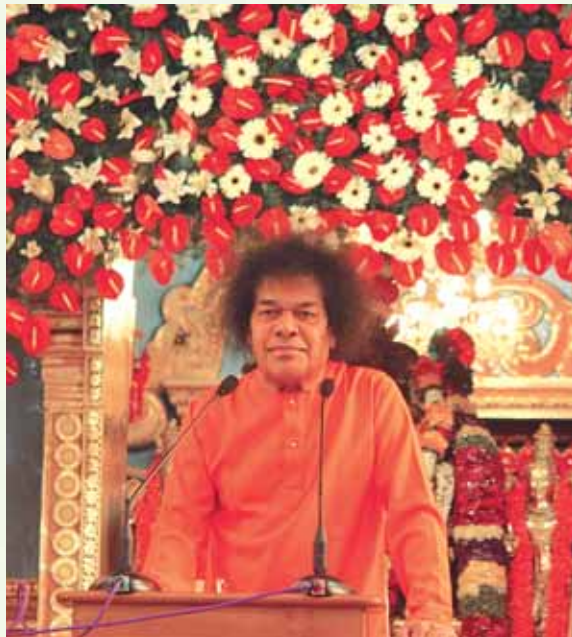
The students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions enjoying the grand feast in Poornachandra Auditorium.

new residence with beautiful floral designs and myriad-coloured lights and trees and designs of light which glittered at night. After showering His Divine blessings on the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan started ceremoniously in a grand procession to enter His new abode. The procession was led by the bands of girls and boys students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, followed by Veda chanting students and Nadaswaram troupe. Bhagavan entered His new residence at 8.30 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the students and priests and performance of Puja by the priests. On this happy occasion, Bhagavan hosted a sumptuous feast for all the students and staff in Poornachandra Auditorium and in His new residence.

The festival of Ugadi was celebrated in the afternoon in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme commenced with a beautiful and sweet devotional song in praise of Lord Ganesh by the Institute students soon after the arrival

of Bhagavan in the Hall at 4.00 p.m. Thereafter, the students made a very illuminating and powerful presentation to bring forth the inner significance of Ugadi celebrations through group songs, skits and dialogues. The programme also included the traditional ritual of Panchanga Sravanam (listening to the almanac) which was made lively and interesting by the students who gave the inner meaning of this custom on the basis of the teachings of Bhagavan.

After this excellent programme of the students, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His nectarine Discourse exhorting them to follow Sathya and Dharma and give up anger and hatred. He advised the students to control their senses and mind and follow the path of goodness. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho ...*” After this, the devotees experienced the bliss of singing the glories of the Lord when they followed in chorus the



Bhagavan giving His Ugadi Message to the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall.

Bhajans led by the Institute students. In the end, Prasadam was distributed to all. The festival of Ugadi came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.

... Continued from page 113

cave was opened, the entire cave was full of Vibhuti! From then on, the name and fame of Purushothamananda spread far and wide. The disciples of Purushothamananda thereafter visited Prasanthi Nilayam. I provided them accommodation and all conveniences. They stayed here for ten days and left for their place, carrying with them the love and blessings of Swami. Purushothamananda was a noble soul. He was really a Purushothama (noble man). This is the story of Purushothamananda.

Vasishtha cave is still as it was when Purushothamananda lived there. It is perfectly clean and holy, spreading

divine vibrations in the entire Ashram. The disciples of Purushothamananda told Me: “Swami! The entire Ashram is permeated by divine vibrations. We feel as though Swami Purushothamananda is still with us.” I told them: “Fine! You continue to feel his presence there and enjoy bliss.” During one of My visits to Delhi, I arranged for conducting Bhajan in memory of Purushothamananda, keeping his photograph there. Thus, many sages and seers show intense love and devotion towards Me and yearn for My Darshan.

– From Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th October 2005.



SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIETY IN THAILAND

"The local school administration had given a target of 52% for all school leavers in grade 12 to gain entry into universities. The Sathya Sai School had already two batches of grade 12, and we achieved 100% entry into universities, the only school in the district to do so. The source of all the success and name and fame is, of course, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba," said Dr. Art-ong Jumsai, Director, Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Thailand in reply to a question of Dr. G. Venkataraman.

S AIRAM, JUMSAI! TELL US A LITTLE bit about how you happened to come to Swami?

Well, it is not how I came to Swami, but how Swami caught hold of me.

Of course, that is always the case. He always pulls the string, but in the purely worldly sense we always think that we have come to Swami. All right, whichever way it is.

See, even before I knew about Swami, He had already made an appearance to my mother. He came during the war time and saved all of us from bombing.

There was bombing in Thailand also!

Yes. At first we were invaded by Japan, then later on by the Allies.

So, you got it both ways (laughs).

Yes, we got it both ways. In any case, it was proved that Swami actually came because He said that Himself.

In which year was that?

It must have been around 1940-41.

It's amazing. He was just a 14-year-old boy in physical frame. He had just declared that He was Sai Baba. When your

mother saw Him, what was His appearance? How old did He appear at that time?

Well, He seemed to be a young man. My mother described Him as someone who looked like a monk, but not a monk.

In the later years, did you have any chance to show the photograph of Swami to your mother? Did she recognise the Form?

Well, I didn't know Swami.

No, much later, after you came.

Well, when I came to know about Swami, I immediately talked to my mother about it. But my mother did not recognise that Swami was the same person as that young man. But she accepted Him immediately and we came together for the first time. Anyway, I like to tell you how I came. This was just over 20 years ago in Thailand, when first few people came to Puttaparthi – Thai people. Before that, there were Indians and people of other nationalities who had come from Thailand. But we didn't hear much about it until a very prominent Thai Buddhist came and he was transformed by Swami. He came back and started to talk about Swami and translated books into Thai language. Then he came to me



because he is a friend of mine. He said, "Would you like to go and see Swami?" I said, "If He is so great, He better call me. Otherwise, I won't go." Well, that put a challenge (laughs). On the same day as that challenge, I was sitting all alone; suddenly, I felt there was a lot of light and energy entering my body and I was shaking and shaking.

It was daytime?

Yes, it was daytime. And I was shaking and crying. Tears were coming out. I felt I was peaceful. So I thought, well, may be this is the call. I went to my mother and told, "Would you like to come with me?" She said, yes. So, we came. It was in the year 1982 during Bhagavan's Birthday festival. Of course, there was a huge crowd. I couldn't get anywhere near Swami. I didn't know my way. Swami came out for Darshan. I was outside the enclosure and He glanced in my direction. Suddenly, I felt the same light and energy entering my body and I was crying and crying and crying. So, I knew that was the call. He did make that call.

Now let me come to your current activity, which is in the field of education. You have been in it for many, many years now. I have seen you here at Prasanthi Nilayam participating, organising, running so many courses. What I would like to ask you is what EHV in simple terms is and what you are doing in Thailand and later on how the movement has spread across the world, because very few people know really much about it. You are the best person to tell us about it.

It all began in 1983 when a delegation of nine from Thailand attended the first International Conference for Bal Vikas

Gurus held at Prasanthi Nilayam. Bhagavan spent a lot of time with the delegates and we were very much inspired. When we went back to Thailand, we started to work immediately. First, we experimented on children from the slum areas of Bangkok. With Sathya Sai Education in Human Values, the children underwent noticeable changes and parents reported that they were very happy at the changes that had taken place. The Organisation officially known as the Sathya Sai Foundation of Thailand then decided that we should now inform teachers about the five human values and their associated instruction. Thus, we held seminars for teachers twice a month. Devotees worked hard to prepare food for the delegates, wash dishes, serve food, prepare banners, contact the Government and the Ministry of Education, clean up the hall and prepare floral arrangements. The seminars were popular and about 15,000 teachers had been trained when the teachers started to ask to see a school that used everything that we had described in the seminar. The Organisation then made a historic decision that a model school, the Sathya Sai School,



View of Sathya Sai School, Bangkok, Thailand from the top of a mountain.

was to be established to demonstrate how children were to be taught to bring about Human Values excellence.

Thus, in 1992, the Sathya Sai School was opened. It was a residential school and children came from all over the country. We started only with grade 1 with only 14 children. Today we have kindergarten and grades 1 to 12 with 350 children. Teachers and educators that have been trained number over 50,000. The impact on society and the country as a whole was very great. After training 25,000 teachers, the Organisation stopped all seminars as they became redundant. The schools, colleges and universities continued to arrange the seminars themselves and the Organisation was requested to provide the speakers.

The important part of this training is that teachers learn to integrate values in all subjects. So, in other words, they don't have to change the curriculum. They use the same curriculum but learn to integrate values. Values would be an integral part of everything that they do in the school. We just need to motivate them, inspire them because they are already professional teachers.

Do you maintain any contact or feedback from them?

We invite them to come and see Sathya Sai School because that's very important. Many of them come. They visit, they see and are very much moved by what they see in the Sathya Sai School because the atmosphere is completely different from other public schools.

Are you hopeful of making some impact on the children and the youth of Thailand?

Certainly, the children in Sathya Sai Schools are really transformed. They have changed so much.

The Ministry of Education was searching for a model school for the new Education Law and when the Vice Minister of Education visited the Sathya Sai School, he was very much impressed by what he saw and declared the Sathya Sai School as the perfect model school for all to come, visit and learn. Now we have visitors from various schools, colleges, universities as well as Buddhist monks from all over the country coming to visit the Sathya Sai School.

Are the lawmakers lending you an ear?

Well, I tell you the secret. I had to become an M.P. myself. I was elected three times as Member of Parliament in Thailand. I was always in education work in Parliament, always in house committees for education and so on and that helped a great deal to influence the laws and, in fact, we now have been able to put out a new law five years ago. This education law states that values must be an integral part of all subjects. So, this is a great help in Thailand because there is a great demand for training. They don't know how to apply the laws in their schools. So, they came to us because we were really the originators in Thailand. That's why we have been training so many teachers. Almost weekly, we have to travel all over Thailand and give training.

In 1997, the Parliament passed a new Constitution and Article 81 of the Constitution stated that the Government must provide education that will bring about knowledge and human values at the



same time. The Parliament then had to enact a new Education Law of 1999 and Article 6 of the new law stated that the purpose of education was to bring about human excellence with human values and the ability to live together in peace. The Ministry of Education was searching for a model school for the new Education Law and when the Vice Minister of Education visited the Sathya Sai School, he was very much impressed by what he saw and declared the Sathya Sai School as the perfect model school for all to come, visit and learn. Now we have visitors from various schools, colleges, universities as well as Buddhist monks from all over the country coming to visit the Sathya Sai School. There are over 200 visitors every week. The Sathya Sai School was declared by the Government as the most outstanding Buddhist School as Thailand is a Buddhist country. A prestigious university awarded the title, the Philosopher of Thai Wisdom to me. Thailand is now proceeding on the course of self-transformation. Not only has the Sathya Sai School become an example of Human Values, but also in the academic field. The local school administration had given a target of 52% for all school leavers in grade 12 to gain entry into universities. The Sathya Sai School had already two batches of grade 12, and we achieved 100% entry into universities, the only school in the district to do so. The source of all the success and name and fame is, of course, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. For He is the Inner Motivator and He is the Doer of all things.

Allow me to ask a somewhat difficult question at this point. One of the things I am rather worried about is the following: It is all well for us to try and tell students about



Classes being conducted in natural surroundings while visitors observe the students.

values; we may do it with the best of motives and best possible way. But the practical problem is that many of these students are subjected to two very powerful opposing forces – one is the media and the other is the peer pressure. Of course, media works through the peers to its advantage. So, how do you take across the message to those people who might be reluctant listeners, who might not be willing to accept what is really good for them? If you have some good tips, I think it will be useful to share them with our listeners who might be teachers.

Well, we are getting across to teachers; this is not too difficult because already teachers are thinking in that line.

Teachers, of course, but the teachers must get across to students. At least 20-25 per cent must accept what the teachers say.

Yes, getting across to students is not that difficult. It depends on the teachers. If the teachers are convinced and if they really believe in this programme and if they are an example, then it is not difficult. This is very important. They must express values in their own life. Then it is easy to transfer to the children.





Girls' hostels situated in sylvan setting in Thailand.

That's a good point. I have not heard anyone say that. What you are saying is that you can overcome any scepticism with example. If the teacher becomes a role model, it is much easier to convey. I think you have a real point there, which has not been stressed enough. We were able to accept Mahatma Gandhi because he was a role model. The long and short of it is that any teacher training programme must focus on making a teacher into a role model. Is that what you would say?

Yes. They must be a role model for the children to emulate.

Tell us something about the clones of your institute, if I may use that word, which have come up in many other continents. There is an institute for Sathya Sai Education, somewhat similar to you in many other continents. Is it not?

Yes, we cannot work alone in one country. We need to spread out and delegate the work and so we have been asking many countries to start Institutes of Sathya Sai Education.

One per continent or something like that.

Well, at first we were thinking of regional institutes where each region

will have one, but when the country becomes very strong, then they will set up their own institutes. You may have two in the region, that doesn't matter, like in Africa. They already have four or five Sathya Sai Schools and they do a lot of work.

Oh, there are two institutes!

There are two institutes now in Africa.

What about Latin America?

In Latin America, we have institutes in Argentina, Brazil and now institutes are being set up in Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia. Many institutes are being set up. South America is very active.

In Asia, apart from Thailand where do you have Sathya Sai Institutes?

In Asia, we have institutes set up in the Philippines, and if you go little further south, then of course, we have one in Australia. We do have institutes that are being set up in Japan, but they are not full-fledged institutes as they don't have diploma courses. But they do train teachers. So, they have already arranged national training three or four times in Japan.

There is no penetration in China?

Oh yes, we are working hard in China. You remember we had a conference here in the year 2000, an international conference. There were Chinese educators, really top educators who were invited and they came. They were so impressed. They went back and contacted us to help them in training teachers. We have sent some of our people from Hong Kong to go and train teachers with these educators. It's been very successful; they are very happy.

So, we are going to continue the work.

Now before we sign off, I would like you to give our listeners with some ideas



which they can think about relating to education and values. What would you like to tell our listeners as a parting remark?

Life itself is an education. We learn all the time, every minute we are learning something because we are interacting with the environment; we have our instruments for learning – the five senses are always used to interact with the environment. So, through the five senses we are receiving a lot of information all the time and we need to process that so that it is useful to uplift our mind to become a better person.

Am I right in assuming that a better person is one who serves society?

A good person is one with values. Such persons become selfless and therefore they work for others rather than for themselves. Because our life is a learning process, we cannot avoid it. We need to have education, we need to teach everyone how to learn. That is very important. The learning process we all need to use in our life. So, when we study, we will see that values are always there in our learning process because it applies to our own life. Human values and integrated learning concepts are now globally accepted. So, we have at present 57 Sathya Sai Schools in 35 countries of the world, besides several Sathya Sai Institutes for training of teachers in human values.

Courtesy: Radio Sai Global Harmony

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICAL SCIENCES

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NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Zenica is an industrial city located in central Bosnia and Herzegovina, north of Sarajevo on the river Bosna. A meeting was held in the Big Hall of the Zenica Council on 7th February 2006 which was attended by 100 people. Five speakers spoke in the programme that lasted two hours. The speakers were Jakob Finci, Svetlana Broz and Ivan Vrhunc, Sabina Mujezinovic, the Coordinator of a radio programme on Radio Kameleon, and an Imam from local community. The speakers spoke of Sri Sathya Sai and His works of service and global charities. A question period was provided during the meeting. The proceedings were broadcast by an independent television station with satellite reach throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, many journalists were also present in the audience. The attendees appreciated the meeting and requested for future meetings to learn more about Bhagavan.

BRAZIL

A free dental clinic was established in August 2005 by Sai devotees in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This clinic runs for three hours every Tuesday and sees poor children between the ages of 6 and 12 years. The goal is to provide loving preventive dental care and dental treatment when required. During the preceding six months, 82 fillings, 20 tooth extractions and four dental surgeries have been carried out. The perennial love of Bhagavan and the overwhelming appreciation by patients' families keep devotees committed to the clinic.

CANADA

A public meeting was conducted by Sathya Sai devotees in Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan on 26th November 2005 to celebrate Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 80th Birthday. The meeting was attended by about 120 people and was based on the theme of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. Two teachers from the Sathya Sai School of Canada spoke on Bhagavan's Education in Human Values and how well it could be integrated into the school curriculum. Smt. Sara Longman, Director of the Public School System in Regina, was present and was impressed by the magnitude of Bhagavan's work.

For 11 months from January to November 2005, the Sathya Sai Gayatri was sung in Saskatoon 1008 times every week with rice Abhishekam. The rice used for the Abhishekam was then cooked and a rice pudding was served to 300 homeless people in Saskatoon. In addition, 250 T-shirts were donated to school children in an impoverished neighbourhood and 800 lilies planted throughout the city by the devotees.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of South Africa held a national conference on 4th and 5th March 2006. The conference, held at the University of Kwa-Zulu in the province of Natal, was attended by 1200 delegates. The day began with chanting of the Gayatri Mantra and verses from the Vedas. Delegates were then informed that there was no pre-determined programme for the event and that the proceedings would be driven by the sharing

of individual experiences of the impact of Bhagavan's teachings upon their lives. Topics covered through discussions included educare, parenting, health and diet, business and human values, leadership and service. This event also marked the occasion of the graduation of 300 delegates who received a diploma in Education in Human Values at the Institute of Higher Learning, South Africa.

U. A. E.

A medical camp was held in Abu Dhabi on 24th February 2006. A team of general practice physicians and ophthalmologists saw 120 patients during that day. Patients were provided free transportation in an air-conditioned bus to facilitate travel to the clinic. Health screening was provided for diabetes and hypertension and treatment for respiratory and dermatological ailments. Free medications were dispensed as needed. Counselling was provided for general hygiene, healthy lifestyle, alcohol and smoking cessation. Patients were given a total of 130 white T-shirts with the Sarva Dharma logo. The Indian ambassador to the U.A.E. enthusiastically took part in the camp and gave a talk on healthy living to the patients, arranged for the embassy to provide furniture and video display units and assisted in the distribution of the T-shirts. The films, 'His Work' and 'Pure Love' were shown continuously during the clinic.

U. K.

The ancient city of Bath is located in England in the rolling Somerset meadows west of London. On 5th February 2006, a meeting was held to herald the glory of unsung heroes by the Mayor in the famous Guild Hall



A meeting in progress in the ancient City of Bath, England where Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K. made a presentation about the life and global service activities of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

built in 1779. About 150 people attended the event. After presentations from several religious groups, the event was capped by an informative session by the Sathya Sai Organisation. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His global service activities were introduced to the public. In addition, a question and answer session was held along with a display of photographs of the activities undertaken by the Sathya Sai Organisation. The Mayor of Bath wrote to thank the Sathya Sai Organisation for its activities and for the "thought provoking finale".

The Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Manor Park, London, conducted a seminar on the theme of "Love and Harmony" on 21st January 2006 attended by a large multi-faith audience. A presentation was made on the life and work of Bhagavan. At the conclusion of the events, Sri Patrick Handley, the advisor on interfaith matters to the Bishop of Brentwood spoke and applauded the efforts of the Sathya Sai Organisation. He remarked, "The example you



Seminar on "Love and Harmony" organised by the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Manor Park, London on 21st January 2006 was attended by a large multi-faith audience.

offer is all the more needed in today's world of materialism where the power factions, the news and the media are offering the opposite of what the Sai Baba Organisation stands for."

UKRAINE

A national public meeting was held in the idyllic town of Sumi near Minsk in the Ukraine on 21st and 22nd January 2006. Devotees gathered to welcome the long-time devotee of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and the active nonagenarian Phyllis Krystal. Bhagavan had approved the visit and the long train ride in the depth of Russian winter upon the request of Steve Picullel, Zonal Chairman of



In spite of extreme cold weather, a large number of devotees came to listen to the talks of Phyllis Krystal about Bhagavan and His teachings.

Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Russia. With Bhagavan's blessings, it was not surprising that the meeting, held at – 25 degrees centigrade was attended by 135 devotees who gave her a thundering standing applause after her talk. A second public meeting was held in Belo, Russia on 3rd to 5th March 2006. About 150 devotees gathered to listen to Phyllis Krystal. At both these meetings, she spoke of the importance of heeding to Bhagavan's Discourses and not engaging in gossip, rancour and criticism. She narrated her own experience of how with complete surrender to Bhagavan and by focusing on divine love, she could escape from a life-threatening situation when she was on a hijacked plane with terrorists. She also patiently addressed several spiritual questions.

On Sunday, 26th February 2006, Sivarathri Akhanda Bhajans were held in the historic town of St. Petersburg. The Bhajans were attended by over 200 devotees, many of whom returned to work the next morning after a full night of devotional singing.

U. S. A.

A group of Sathya Sai Baba devotee physicians from the U.S.A. gathered together a multinational and multidisciplinary medical team to render free medical service to the needy in Guyana. A total of 55 members from the U.S.A., Canada and the U.K. departed for Georgetown, Guyana to set up their medical camps from 17th February to 24th February 2006. There were 13 camp sites in the various cities of Georgetown, Demerara, Essequibo, Linden, Village of Enmore and Wakenaam City. The group carried with them medical equipment, medications and supplies to provide primary medical care with the help of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Guyana.



Multidisciplinary medical teams from the U.S.A., U.K. and Canada organised free medical camps in 13 different towns of Guyana where 3,622 general medical care and 1,600 ophthalmic care patients were seen by the doctors.

The magnitude and scale of the camp was unprecedented. A total of 3,622 patients were seen for general medical care and 1,600 patients seen for ophthalmological care. Of these, 65 eye surgeries were performed for diseases including cataract and glaucoma, 60 laser treatments for diabetic retinopathy and 1018 corrective eyeglasses were distributed for patients with visual impairment. Preventive health screening and education was provided for cardiac disease, diabetes, dental hygiene, hypertension, osteoporosis, HIV, nutrition, health education for smoking and alcoholism and women's health. Treatment was provided for respiratory, cardiac, gastrointestinal, gynaecological and infectious diseases. First aid was taught to young adults.

The President of Guyana was very much pleased with the service provided and met the group. He thanked Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and pledged his full

support for future medical camps. On the last day of the camp, the Health Minister of Guyana commented, "Guyana is better today than it was one week ago – thanks to all of you."

THAILAND

On 6th February 2006, Sathya Sai devotees from Maesai in Northern Thailand donated 50 blankets to the local temple and provided meals to the temple monks. Another group of Sai devotees went to the Klong Toey slums on 5th February 2006 for Sai Seva. After chanting the Gayatri Mantra and Brahmaarpanam, the regional coordinator Sri Sachdev spoke on Human Values and distributed a spiritual diary to 120 children. In addition, 731 food packets consisting of noodles, milk and fruits were distributed.

– Prasanthi Council

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Khammam district planned and executed Children's Joy Festival at district level on 5th February 2006 at Kothagudem on the lines of Children's Joy Festival at national level held at Prasanthi Nilayam in October 2005. As part of the programme, elocution competitions on "Bhagavan's Life – An Ideal for the World", essay writing on "The Unity of all Religions", and quiz programme on the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavata and Bhagavan's life were organised in a fruitful way in which 69 children took part. 81 children participated in various cultural programmes. A district-level Bal Vikas Rally was also conducted, highlighting Bhagavan's teachings.



Karimnagar district organised the foundation stone laying ceremony of Sri Sathya Sai Gurukula Vidya Niketan on 16th February 2006 at Bejjanki village. This district arranged a big service camp at Vemulawada during Sivarathri festival to serve a huge number of devotees visiting the famous Bheemeswara Temple. 278 Seva Dal volunteers, both gents and ladies, took part in maintaining queues, distribution of Prasadam, Narayana Seva and distribution of clean drinking water.

Prakasam district conducted an eye check-up camp at Badinenipalli on 29th January 2006, examined 417 patients, selected 87 cataract cases and got 21 of them operated in Government Hospital. To and fro transport charges, food and medicines were provided free. This district conducted a seminar on "Science and Spirituality" at Ongole in which doctors, lawyers and leading citizens took part.

West Godavari district conducted a major medical camp at Antarvedigudem, a very remote tribal village, treating 1,250 patients and giving free medicines. During Sivarathri, this district carried out various services like maintaining queues, sanitation in and around temples, distribution of water and food packets to devotees, milk to children and maintaining cloak rooms at Pattiseema and Natta Rameswaram pilgrim centres.

Srikakulam district conducted two free medical camps – one at Chinna Kedari village treating 200 patients and another at Polla tribal village treating 700 patients on 15th February 2006. This district carried out various services at Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple during Rathasaptami, i.e., on

4th and 5th February 2006. About 10,000 devotees were provided with accommodation. Sales counter, cloak room, information centre were organised, besides carrying out sanitation work.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: The inmates of the Ashram for leprosy patients at Boko in Kamrup district of Assam received a



Seva Dal volunteers offering essential items and gifts to leprosy patients at Boko in Kamrup district of Assam.

pleasant surprise on 17th January 2006 when a group of Sai volunteers from Diphu, Guwahati and Uparhali Sarpara Samithis visited them with a number of essential items. In the spirit of the tradition of Assam's Magh Bihu, the items including a wall clock, towel, rice, Dhal, utensils, woollen clothes, lentils, fruits, Bihu sweets, etc., were distributed. Guwahati and Diphu Samithis are offering them basic food-stuffs and other much needed essential items at intervals. They took a silent resolution to make such visits more frequent.

To accelerate the process of availability of healthcare facility particularly in rural areas inhabited by economically less privileged people, a series of medical



camps are arranged by Sai devotees. As a part of this programme, Sai devotees of Golaghat in collaboration with the devotees of Diphu (Karbi Anglong) organised a free daylong medical camp in Borpathar Bilgaon village on 28th January 2006 in Golaghat district. Free medicines were also distributed. Participated by local social organisations, the Seva Dal volunteers distributed leaflets and booklets on sanitation, AIDS prevention and child and women healthcare. At the close of the camp, mosquito nets were distributed free to the more needy persons among the patients.

Kerala: Sai Neethi, the lawyers forum of the Sai Organisation of the State conducted a three-day training course in counselling for lawyers. Participants came from different parts of the State. This was conducted on 10th, 11th and 12th March 2006. These advocates are participating in our Grama Seva programme.

A cleft lip and palate screening camp was organised at Shornur on 19th February 2006. 41 patients were selected for free plastic surgery. The first batch will undergo operation on 1st April 2006.

An orientation programme for Bal Vikas Gurus was conducted at Thiruvananthapuram. This was part of strengthening the activity as 2006 has been declared as Bal Vikas year.

During Sivarathri, all the districts of the State organised Seva Centres in different parts of the State. There was display of Sai Literature also on this occasion.

Ten lakh devotees participated in the temple function at Attukal, Thiruvananthapuram. Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Kerala organised medical camps at different points for the benefit of the pilgrims. Services like distribution of clean drinking water were also provided.

Pathanamthitta district organised free distribution of food packets during Sabarimala festival. Clean drinking water was also distributed to the pilgrims.

Bal Vikas children participated in the 'Bhagavatha Sathram' at Thiruvalla as young Seva Dal volunteers. They distributed drinking water to 10,000 devotees everyday. All devotees appreciated the discipline, humility, care and love of these Bal Vikas children.



A newly constructed house given to a needy family by the Sathya Sai Organisation of Kerala on 12th March 2006 under Sri Sathya Sai Vasthudhara Project of the State.

Under Sri Sathya Sai Vasthudhara Project, the Sai Organisation of the State has provided a number of newly constructed houses to the needy poor people. About 75 houses were distributed during the last three years. On 12th March 2005, another house was handed over to a needy family at Thirur, Malappuram district.



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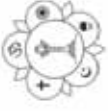
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