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Editor

G.L. ANAND



"One cannot achieve anything in life without getting rid of ego and attachment. Anything can be achieved by humility and good conduct. One should conduct oneself with devotion in all fields of life – moral, spiritual, physical and political. Only then can one realise one's objective in life."

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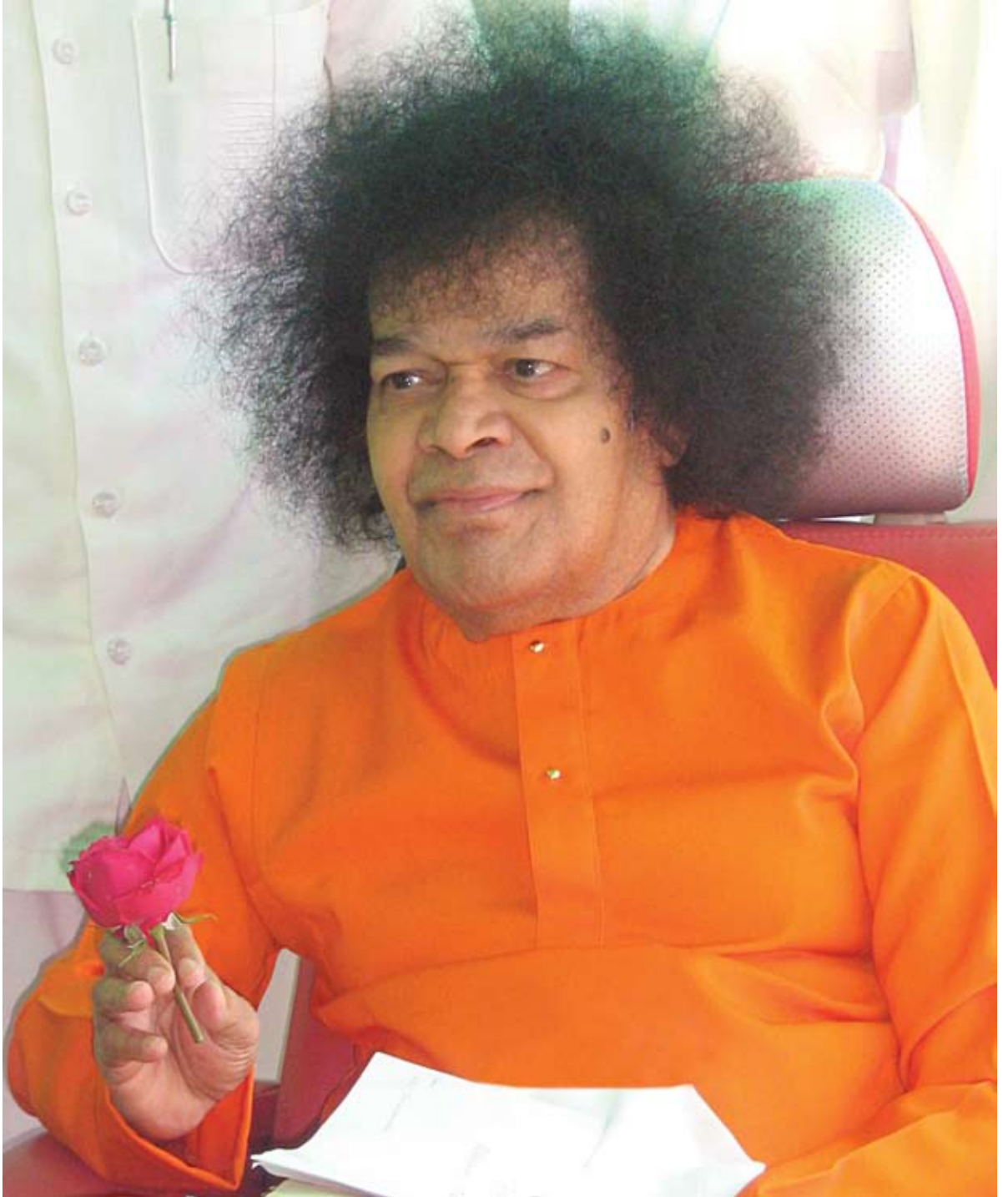
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MAKE YOUR MIND THE MASTER OF DESIRES

Embodiments of Love!

EASWARAMMA DAY IS HELD to commemorate the day when Easwaramma left her physical body.

The body is made up of five elements and is bound to perish sooner or later, but the indweller has neither birth nor death. The indweller has no attachment whatsoever and is the eternal witness.

(Telugu Poem)

Understand the Importance of the Mind

People are deluded by body attachment. Body is ephemeral, evanescent and impermanent. Whatever is born is transient only. Whatever is there in this world is bound to perish. Only one thing remains forever and that is the mind. But many people call it monkey mind. No, no. You belong to mankind and have nothing to do with monkey mind. The mind, in fact, is of the nature of the Self. You should make befitting efforts to understand its true nature. Only those who have control over their mind can be called human beings. There are many in this world who are highly educated. There are also many who have mastered various forms of knowledge and are engaged in mighty tasks. But they cannot be called human beings in the true sense of the term if they have no control over their mind. All

kinds of good and bad thoughts occur in the mind. Keeping the mind away from all that is bad, you should accept only that which is good. Never allow your mind to associate with anything that is bad.

Goddess Lakshmi always chants



Goddess Lakshmi always chants “Narayana, Narayana” only. The principle of Atma originates from Lord Narayana. You may say Atma or mind or Hridaya; they are all one. The Atma means Narayana only. The mind is also Narayana. And so is the heart. Narayana is called Hridayavasi (indweller of the heart). We should give utmost importance to the mind. But many people do not give due importance to it. One who considers his mind as the basis of his life is a true human being.

“Narayana, Narayana” only. The principle of Atma originates from Lord Narayana. You may say Atma or mind or Hridaya; they are all one. The Atma means Narayana only. The mind is also Narayana. And so is the heart. Narayana is called Hridayavasi (indweller of the heart). We should give utmost importance to the mind. But many people do not give due importance to it. One who considers his mind as the basis of his life is a true human being. One who leaves his mind to its whims and fancies is, in reality, a monkey and not a human being. You should make your mind the centre of your awareness. Leaving the mind to its arbitrary ways is like leaving your life principle itself. Hence, make your mind the basis of every aspect of your life. (At this point of time, Bhagavan materialised a gold medallion). This medallion has the image of Lakshmi at its centre with precious stones all around it. The precious stones represent the desires, over which presides Lakshmi who is true, eternal and permanent. You should make your mind the master of desires like Lakshmi. Manah Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo (mind is the cause of bondage and liberation of man) Everyone should try to know this truth.

As are the Feelings, so is the Result

At the time of My departure for East Africa, Easwaramma tried to dissuade Me from going, saying, “Swami! I hear there are many fierce animals in those forests and the place is full of all kinds of dangers. Therefore, You should not go there. Whatever You will, all that will come here. Then, why do You want to go there?” I told her, “I am not going to see the wild animals there. I am going in response to the loving prayers of My devotees.”

When I went there, the devotees of East Africa arranged small aeroplanes. I went round the forest in one such plane. There were thousands of wild elephants in the Kampala forest.

It looked as though the entire forest was full of elephants. I had taken bananas with Me and gave one each to some of them. All of them enjoyed eating it. Bisons were also seen in thousands. We saw lions lying on the road here and there. Even when we drove our jeep over their tails, they did not react. Even fierce animals will not harm us if our mind is good. They will attack us only when we try to harm them. When we look at them with love, they will also look at us with love. Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavathi (as are the feelings, so is the result). Our thoughts are the cause of their enmity or trust. As we went forward looking at the animals, we saw fifteen lions lying near a road. Some were suckling their young, some others were eating the meat of an animal brought by them. I said to Dr. Patel and others who accompanied Me, “When we do not harm them, they also do not harm us.” Taking a camera from one of those who accompanied Me, I went near the lions and took their photographs. All of them were happy to see Me. You can see, none of the lions did any harm to us. When you approach them with the evil intention of harming or killing them, they will also try to kill you. We should never go to them with such wicked thoughts. In fact, we should not look at any being with evil intentions.

Do not Develop Body Attachment

Meanwhile, Easwaramma kept thinking about Me with great concern and did not even eat her food properly, with the result that she became quite weak. I kept her informed everyday morning and evening by phone from Kampala, saying, “I am quite all right.” Hearing this, she used to be somewhat comforted. When I came from Kampala, she was very happy. She came near My car and garlanded Me, saying, “Swami! You look very happy and healthy.” She took Me inside and rotated a coconut in front of Me to ward off the effect of evil looks of others. She was beside herself with joy and said, “Swami, I never imagined that Your



trip would be such a grand success.” She shared her joy with one and all in Puttaparthi also. Whenever we visited other places, on our return to Puttaparthi, Easwaramma used to describe to the people all that happened during these visits and exhorted them to follow the ideals set by Swami.

Once the Summer Course on Indian Culture and Spirituality was being conducted at Bangalore. At that time, Easwaramma had also come with Me. As long as she was alive, she always desired, “Swami, wherever You go, I should go with You.” She asked Me to give her a promise that I would not leave Puttaparthi. I gave her this promise. “Wherever a tree is planted, it should be allowed to grow there only. If it is pulled out and planted at different places, it cannot attain proper growth,” she used to say and pleaded with Me, “Swami! You should always reside at the place of Your birth.”

One day, after her breakfast, she had a cup of coffee. Suddenly, she shouted “Swami, Swami, Swami.” I said, “I am coming, I am coming, I am coming.” Then she asked Me to come quickly and I came to her immediately. She caught hold of My hands and placed them on her head and breathed her last. Where was the need to keep the body which had no life in it? Therefore, I immediately sent her body to Puttaparthi. I sent Ramabrahmam with the body after giving him necessary instructions. Those who were present there said, “Swami! You should also go with the body.” But I refused to go. Summer classes were in progress and students had come from many countries. The students thought, there would be no classes on that day as Swami would be going with the body of Mother Easwaramma. But the classes were held as usual and I went to the second class. The students wondered, “How has Swami come! He was supposed to go with the body of Mother Easwaramma!” Why should I go with the body? The body goes as it comes. I did not come with her body; I came separately.



There are many in this world who are highly educated. There are also many who have mastered various forms of knowledge and are engaged in mighty tasks. But they cannot be called human beings in the true sense of the term if they have no control over their mind. All kinds of good and bad thoughts occur in the mind. Keeping the mind away from all that is bad, you should accept only that which is good. Never allow your mind to associate with anything that is bad.



Therefore, I sent her body to Puttaparthi in a car with the instructions to make a Samadhi for her.

Many people in Puttaparthi also wondered, “Why Swami has not come with the body!” The body comes alone and goes alone



Continued on page 202 ...

EASWARAMMA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT KODAIKANAL

EASWARAMMA DAY WAS celebrated at Sai Sruthi, the abode of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Kodaikanal, with great devotion and enthusiasm on 6th May 2007. The entire Sai Sruthi complex was befittingly bedecked with flowers of variegated hues, colourful festoons and pictures of Mother Easwaramma on this occasion.

Auspicious notes of Nadaswaram welcomed Bhagavan when He came out at 8.00 a.m. to grant Darshan to a vast gathering. There was a continuous outpouring of devotion and love from the hearts of Mahila Wing singers and Bal Vikas children in the form of devotional songs and Bhajans while Bhagavan moved amidst Bal Vikas children and devotees to shower the bliss of His Darshan on them. This was followed by Narayana Seva to the entire gathering estimated at more than 16,000. The entire process of distribution of food items was conducted in a most



A large number of villagers were offered Narayana Seva by distributing food and clothes to them on Easwaramma Day at Kodaikanal on 6th May 2007.

orderly and disciplined manner and everyone among the congregation received the sacred Prasadam. Similar discipline was witnessed in the distribution of clothes to needy people, which included nearly 3,000 Saris and Dhotis, woollen clothes and gifts to children and mothers with babies. The morning programme concluded at 10.30 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

In the afternoon, Bhajans started when Bhagavan came to the Bhajan Hall at 4.10 p.m. Bhajan singing was followed by Veda chanting by a group of Bal Vikas children. Thereafter, two Bal Vikas children gave speeches, one in Tamil and the other in English. Both highlighted the importance of love and service to parents.

Thereafter, two eminent speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University. Referring to the decline of values in modern society, Dr. Venkataraman



observed that lack of respect for parents by their children was a major cause of the problems afflicting today's society. Bhagavan, he said, is the shining example to the world in filial piety which all should follow. The second speaker, Sri Anil Kumar, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai University, commenced his talk with a beautiful Telugu poem highlighting the sterling virtues of great women of Bharat. He then narrated two incidents that took place in Kovvur and Chirala in Andhra Pradesh that demonstrated the omnipresence and omnipotence of Bhagavan. After this, Bhagavan most graciously gave His Divine Message on this auspicious day. (Full

... Continued from page 200

only. Everyone comes alone and goes alone. Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma (God is one without a second). After the completion of summer classes, I went to Puttapparthi. I told everybody there, "It is natural for the body to have birth, growth and death. All bodies are like that. Therefore, nobody should have body attachment."

(Here, Swami told the life story of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar who fulfilled the noble desires of his mother and set an example of service to society. He also taught the lesson of humility and selfless service to an I.C.S. officer by carrying his briefcase from the railway station to the place where he himself was to deliver a speech.)

Easwamma was happy that I ate only simple food. She would say, "Swami, You should let the world know about Your food habits." I said, I would certainly do so. Right from those days, I have been emphasising on the need to have simple and Sattwic food. When I am in Puttapparthi, I always eat Ragi Sankati (gruel made of a coarse grain) with

text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.)

After Bhagavan's Discourse, there was a vocal concert in Carnatic music by Sri Raghavachari and Sri Seshachari, the famous duo from Hyderabad, who enthralled the gathering with soulful music for nearly half an hour. This marked the conclusion of Easwamma Day celebrations at Kodaikanal. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan.

groundnut chutney. Sometimes, I take Sankati with Totakura Dhal (a preparation made of a leafy vegetable) instead of chutney. I do not relish any other item. I do not touch spicy curries like Kurmas, Burmas! I do not even like the smell of Kurma. My only dietary requirement is Sankati with chutney. But when I visit other places, people in those towns do not know what Sankati is. So, I eat whatever the devotees prepare for Me. I conduct Myself in accordance with the time, situation and circumstances. However, I never deviate from My practices; I strictly adhere to them. Let people think what they want. I never imitate the practices of others. In this manner, this body is entering its 82nd year. But none can say that I look like an 82-year-old person.

May you sanctify your time in the service of Swami! May you put into practice the principles of service that I have taught you! With this, I bring My Discourse to a close.

– From Bhagavan's Easwamma Day Discourse at Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 6th May 2007.



LOVE FOR GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING

Dear Students – Girls and Boys! People of Anantapur!

THE WORDS SPOKEN BY YOU and the presentation made by you have got imprinted on My heart. You have proved beyond doubt that the people of Anantapur are endowed with immense potentiality and capability.

Love Unites All



Do not think that God is somewhere away from you. He will not go anywhere. He will not forsake you. God is immanent in you; He is always in you, with you, around you. Hold on to this truth firmly and lead a happy life. When you are alone, think “God is with me.” Have firm faith, “I am not alone; both God and I are together.” Develop this faith from now itself. Then you will have no worries and troubles.

All that you have said and performed is ideal and exemplary. It should be disseminated to all other districts. This is what I desire. I have no desires except one. And that desire is that all should have pure heart and they should be immersed in peace and bliss. I have no enemies or opponents. All are Mine. The love of everyone is My love. If anyone hates Me, in reality he hates himself. I do

not hate anybody. I have no other words except the words of love. I have immense love for students. The students are truly My property. When they make progress in life, the entire world will become good.

All should live in unity. You call yourself Hindu. What is the inner meaning of the word HINDU? H stands for humility, I for individuality, N for nationality, D for divinity and U for unity. These five principles are our five life-breaths. Human body is constituted by five elements and is endowed with five senses and five Koshas (life-sheaths). But at the ethical and spiritual level, these five principles are no less than our life-breath. By developing these five principles, you should strengthen unity. Do not let differences occur on small matters. If, however, some differences arise among you, you should remove

them by forgiving each other. Everybody is the child of God. So, all should live like brothers and sisters. The same principle of love is present in all. All will become one by developing love. Our inner strength will increase manifold if we develop love and give up hatred. The youth are endowed with enormous power. So, they should properly strengthen the power of their senses. The elders suffer a loss of their mental power because they are subjected to many types of worries.

All should become one. Don't say "This is my State, that is my State." Say, "This is my India." I spoke on this subject in Chennai the other day. Do not limit yourself at the level of Vyashti (individual); promote the spirit of Samashti (community) and foster unity. Never forget the spirit of nationality. Make your title as human being worthwhile and valid. Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are the life-breaths of man. When we develop love, we will have peace. Peace fosters non-violence. Without love, there can be no peace. Peace is not available in the market. It is not found outside; outside you find only pieces, not peace. If you go to a millionaire and ask him whether he has peace, he will tell you, "I have everything, but I have no peace." Peace can be attained only by love.

Develop the Divine Principle of Love

Love for God is the foundation of everything. When we develop love for God, everything will turn out to be good for us. When we lack love for God, the evil qualities of anger, hatred, jealousy, ego, etc., will gain ground in us more and more. All these are animal qualities. Forsaking the human qualities of love, peace, contentment, compassion, etc., man today is acquiring these animal qualities. In spite of all difficulties, man should live with patience and perseverance.

Forbearance is the real beauty in this sacred land of Bharat. Of all the rituals, adherence to truth is the greatest penance. The nectarine feeling in this country is the feeling of



Make your life as a human being worthwhile. How does it become worthwhile? Does it become worthwhile by indulging in quarrels or by developing hatred? No, no. These are all animal qualities. True humanness is attained only by developing love. Therefore, My dear children, you should develop love. If any differences arise in you on some small matters, check them. Consider love as your main life principle. Then the evil qualities of desire, hatred, jealousy, etc., cannot even touch you.



love towards one's mother. Character is valued far higher than the very life itself. People have forgotten the basic principles of this great culture and are imitating Western culture. Alas! The Bharatiyas are not aware of the greatness of their cultural heritage just as a mighty elephant is not aware of its own strength.

(Telugu

Poem)

Man is the repository of great power. No other being has the power that is present in man. But man today has forgotten his power. He is always engulfed in the evil qualities of jealousy and envy. We should not hate anybody. We should not be angry with anybody. If anybody gets angry with us and bears hatred against us, we should salute him and move away from him. We should address even our enemies lovingly, "Hello brother! How are you?" If you address them as brother, they will also call you brother. If you say to someone, "You are my enemy," then his enmity against you will increase. Whatever are your feelings



for others, you will get back similar reaction, resound and reflection from them. You will get the result in accordance with the actions performed by you. If you eat mangoes, can you get the belch of pineapple? No, you will have the flavour of the fruit eaten by you. Hence, if you fill your heart with love, you will experience love only.

Dear children! You should develop love right from this age. Your love should be for God and not for the world. If you fill your heart with divine love, then you can do away with the 'deep wine' of carnal desires. Therefore, develop the divine principle of love. This is your life principle. A life filled with love is truly the life of a human being. An individual without love is not a human being at all. Therefore, vindicate your name as a human being by developing love. Earn a good name. The ideals and principles demonstrated by you in your programmes should be disseminated to the entire country. Today, newspapers do not publish such sacred subjects; instead they publish vulgar cinema subjects. Fill your heart with sacred, pure, steady and selfless principle of love. Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam (God is attributeless, pure, final abode, eternal, unsullied, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness).

Make your life as a human being worthwhile. How does it become worthwhile? Does it become worthwhile by indulging in quarrels or by developing hatred? No, no. These are all animal qualities. True humanness is attained only by developing love. Therefore, My dear children, you should develop love. If any differences arise in you on some small matters, check them. Consider love as your main life principle. Then the evil qualities of desire, hatred, jealousy, etc., cannot even touch you. There is no hatred in the animals living in the forest. But it is so very prominent in human beings who live in villages, towns and cities. This is no humanness. There is no wealth superior



First of all, impart goodness and nobility to your children. Only then can you call yourself a true housewife. If your children take to bad ways and you are attending office, then you will have no mental peace. First and foremost, you should fulfil your responsibility towards your family. Respect your mother and father as well as your mother-in-law and father-in-law. Only then can you become deserving to earn the title of a woman.



to the wealth of love for a human being. Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows. Hence, we should promote morality.

Dear Children!

Your heart is pure and your feelings are sublime. You can fill such a sacred heart with any amount of love. Make your love as expansive as the sky. Never give up love under any circumstances. Then Swami will be with you, in you, around you. Therefore, develop love. Shortly I will come to Anantapur. More than ten years have passed since I went to Anantapur. This time I will surely come in response to your devout love and yearning. Start preparing yourself now itself by expanding your love and by spreading Bhajan singing among all. "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ..." (one can have no peace and happiness without singing the glory of God). Nothing can give more peace than Bhajans.

Women are Responsible for Putting their Children on the Sacred Path

There are many women who are endowed with Bhakti and Prapatti (devotion and surrender). They should organise



themselves and work for keeping their houses clean and putting their children on the sacred path. However, the educated women today are seeking jobs. But such women cannot look after their family.

If women go out for jobs,
who will take care of the home?

If women go out to teach others' children in
schools,

who will teach their own children?

(Telugu Poem)

First of all, impart goodness and nobility to your children. Only then can you call yourself a true housewife. If your children take to bad ways and you are attending office, then you will have no mental peace. First and foremost, you should fulfil your responsibility towards your family. Respect your mother and father as well as your mother-in-law and father-in-law. Only then can you become deserving to earn the title of a woman.

All should follow the path of truth, whether they are men, women, children or elders. Only then can our country Bharat impart happiness to the world. It is not enough if you look after the security and welfare of your house and family only. You should help and protect your country also. What is the reality of this human body? Today it is there, tomorrow it is not.

Embodiments of Love!

Today your love has deeply touched My heart. My heart is filled with bliss on seeing your acts of charity to the poor. All this has become possible by the help and enthusiasm of Aswattha Narayana and his family. Many people of the town, professors and lecturers worked together and performed the entire task admirably well. What they did was beyond expectation.

(Addressing the beneficiaries who earlier received various items for their self-

employment, Bhagavan said) Ask from Me whatever you want. I will surely give. Do not give up your studies for want of money; I will give money. If you are unable to pay your monthly fee, ask Me; I shall give. Some parents are in a state of penury. Therefore, do not bother them. Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava (revere your mother and father as God). Do not think that God is somewhere away from you. He will not go anywhere. He will not forsake you. God is immanent in you; He is always in you, with you, around you. Hold on to this truth firmly and lead a happy life. When you are alone, think "God is with me." Have firm faith, "I am not alone; both God and I are together." Develop this faith from now itself. Then you will have no worries and troubles. Cultivate sacred feelings in your heart.

– From Bhagavan's Ugadi Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the evening of 20th March 2007.





INTERVIEW

THE DIVINE GIFT OF IDEAL HEALTHCARE

“I would say that I have never seen a hospital like this catering to humanity. We have done in our hospital alone, I am not talking of the Whitefield hospital, more than 16,000 operations so far. And mind you, the infection rate is so low, and the success rate is so mind-boggling that when experts come and take a review of the whole situation, they just cannot believe it. With all the latest state-of-the-art technology and no compromise on any front, they cannot believe that such a thing exists,” said Dr. Neelam Desai, Additional Senior Consultant in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi during an interview for Radio Sai Global Harmony.

O M SRI SAI RAM. WELCOME to Radio Sai Global Harmony, Dr. Neelam Desai. You are currently on the medical staff of the Institute in the Department of Cardio-thoracic and Vascular Surgery. So, you are a very busy person. I therefore, thank you for accepting our invitation and sparing time from your very busy schedule to be with us today. First of all, why don't you tell our listeners about how you came to Bhagavan? With my Pranams at the Divine Lotus Feet of Bhagavan, I would like to say that as a child I was a Bal Vikas student and I came to know

of Bhagavan when I was ten years old. Actually, we had shifted to a new residence in Mumbai where Bal Vikas classes were being conducted. I started attending those classes and got more and more interested in the activities of the Sai Organisation. My family also slowly got involved in it. Then I became a Bal Vikas Guru and Convener. I had to stop being an active worker of the Sai Organisation because I took up the medical faculty and it wouldn't allow me to be a very active worker. So, always at the back of my mind I had a feeling that somehow I should reconnect. On His 65th

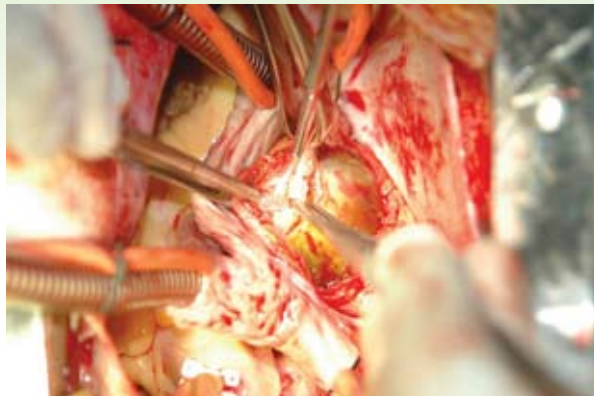


Birthday, Swami said that He would be starting a Super Speciality Hospital. That was in 1990. I had a deep desire to come and work here. So, in 1990 I joined my training for CTVS and in 1992, I cleared my exams. In February 1993, I joined this hospital. That was how I came to this hospital which had already started functioning in November 1991.

What have been your experiences like, generally speaking, in this field of work? Has it brought fulfilment in your life?

Fulfilment, of course. I think that whatever vocation one undertakes, it helps if it gives satisfaction. I found that more than medicine, surgery gave a person quicker relief. So, in the first year of training when we were given choice between medical field and surgical field, I found the surgical field more satisfying and I had a desire from that time to become a surgeon.

To set up a hospital in a village, and that too a super speciality hospital with the latest state-of-the-art technology, it is a divine gift for the people of villages. In the last fourteen years in this hospital, I have nothing to complain about. In our field, it has all the necessary equipment and instruments. Whatever latest facilities you can think of are very much available in our Institute. We have never felt the need to cut down on surgeries or latest operations due to lack of any of this. I would like to give you an example. There is one surgery called Aneurysm surgery. It is a very costly surgery because apart from the valve of the patient being diseased, the whole wall of the aorta which takes blood to the rest of the body is also very much dilated and enlarged. It demands replacement of the entire wall with the valve. So, it is called Neo-aortic valve conduit. If the person has to undergo surgery elsewhere, it will cost him Rs 1,00,000 apart from the valve conduit which costs Rs 75,000. In addition to that,



All surgeries including very complicated and costly ones are being performed free of charge in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences.

you need support of various other equipments. So, totally the cost will run to around Rs 2,00,000. And we at our Institute are able to offer to a patient who comes with this disease everything free of cost which is just unimaginable. We are able to perform here similar other varieties of surgeries free of cost.

What makes a doctor in general find fulfilment?

One is the work satisfaction. So, that is tremendous here. You get a variety of cases here. In fact, we have a lot of overseas cardiac surgeons who come and are amazed at the variety of cases that they see in our Intensive Care Unit (ICU). They are either catering to a paediatric population or to a geriatric population, and it is never a mix of cases, whereas we have a whole range put up in our ICU and they say it is just unbelievable because they would like to do a more selective disease. If it is a congenital heart disease case, then there are hospitals which will be doing only that.

But you have to handle all kinds of cases.

Yes, we handle all kinds of cases here. So, it gives much more satisfaction. It is a different kind of atmosphere in our hospital.

And all of it goes free to the patient.



Everything goes free.

Does the fact that it is free compromise on the quality?

No, that is what exactly I am trying to say. That is why I was telling you the example of Aneurysm surgery; it is a very costly surgery. We can do four to five operations within that amount.

Sometimes you go to places where they offer anything free and people don't value it. After some time, you feel that people don't value the work, and you tend to slack in the services you are offering.

There is no compromise on that here. Let me tell you, in our valve surgeries we are putting the best valves, the costliest ones. So, that has never been the issue.

We have heard that Bhagavan used to visit the hospital often in its early days when it was still in its infancy. Please tell our listeners what a typical visit of Bhagavan is like.

Swami would go to each and every department in the initial days. He would ask the patients in the OPD their names. Then He would ask, "Where do you come from?" We would see a lot of joy on the faces of the patients, the personal touch which



Bhagavan's visits to the hospital provide comfort and joy to patients.

There is no publicity; we do not go around telling people that we have done one of the few rarest of the cases. They report in world literature hardly five cases, but we have already done more than five cases in our Institute of the same category. But we don't go about canvassing or anything like that. I would say, this is the kind of work going on in this hospital.

Swami would give to every one of them. When He would come to the post-operative area, He would go into the ICU. He would go to each and every bed, and ask the patient, "Are you comfortable?" A lot of personal touch; one could see the patient beaming with a lot of joy. If the patient is sleeping, He would say, "Do not wake up the patient. Don't disturb him."

Did He come to the operation theatre also and watch the surgery?

I remember very distinctly Swami blessing one very small child and saying, "Wish you a long, healthy, happy life." Of course, the surgery had gone very uneventfully.

It is said, where science ends, spirituality begins. If I am permitted to reword this, where the doctor moves out, God moves in. From your experience in the hospital, would you say that the doctor's skill does half the work and the faith does the other half? Or is it all the skill of the doctor as the rationalists would put it?

I would say as a personal experience, it is mainly

Swami and Swami alone who is guiding all of us. We have some difficult situations. But suddenly at some point of time, everything falls into place. The case becomes smoother, easier and the post-operative course also becomes smoother for the patient. Even in the Darshan line, Swami would ask, "How is the patient? How is he doing?" Nobody has reported to Him, but He knows everything. The next day when we go for Darshan, He would ask me in Hindi, "**Kaisa Tha, Kal Ka Case, Tough Tha? Mujhe Pata Hai, Par Sab Theek Ho Gaya Baad Mein**" (How was yesterday's case? I know it was tough, but everything became all right afterwards). There is a constant feeling that Swami is there. He is watching you. He knows every step of the surgery which we have performed.

If I ask you to sum up the achievements of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, what would you say?

I would say that I have never seen a hospital like this catering to humanity. We have done in our hospital alone, I am not talking of the Whitefield hospital, more than 16,000 operations so far. And mind you, the infection rate is so low, and the success rate is so mind-boggling that when experts come and take a review of the whole situation, they just cannot believe it. With all the latest state-of-the-art technology and no compromise on any front, they cannot believe that such a thing exists. There is no publicity; we do not go around telling people that we have done one of the few rarest of the cases. They report in world literature hardly five cases, but we have already done more than five cases in our Institute of the same category. But we don't go about canvassing or anything like that. I would say, this is the kind of work going on in this hospital.

Thank you very much, Dr. Neelam. We conclude



The state-of-the-art operation theatre equipped with latest equipment makes complicated surgeries possible in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences.

with your this observation.

Sai Ram.

Courtesy: Radio Sai Global Harmony



REALISE THE IMMANENCE OF DIVINE PRINCIPLE IN ALL

- Can all the birds of green colour talk like a parrot?
 Can all the insects that crawl on the flowers become the bumble bees?
 Can an oversized pig become an elephant?
 Can one who does not know about himself acquire knowledge of the Self?

(Telugu Poem)

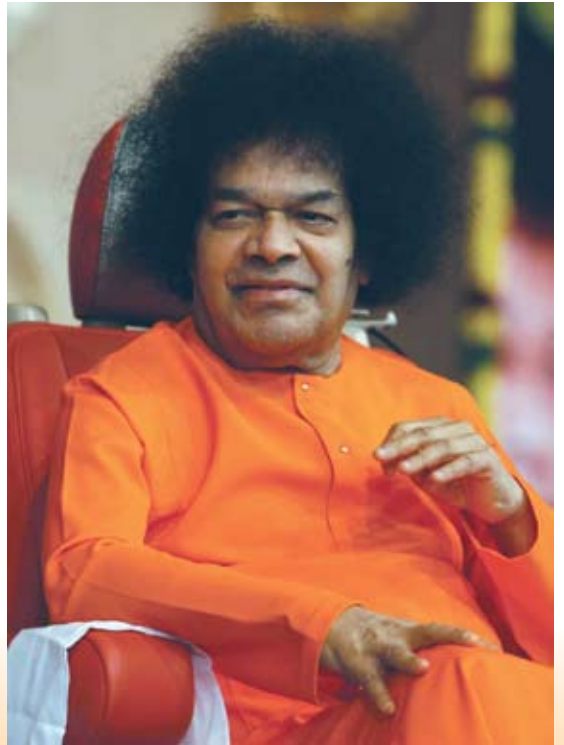
Dear Students!

TODAY MAN ON HIS OWN considers himself great. But he cannot be called even a human being if he lacks humanness. A real human being is one who understands the meaning of humanness and manifests it in his conduct.

Siva Principle Permeates the Entire Universe

A true human being is one who puts into practice the virtues of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa in his life and shares this knowledge with one and all. If he is deficient even in one of these virtues, he becomes unfit to be called a human

The mother has the position of foremost importance in one's life. There is no God higher than the mother. One should therefore never forget one's mother. One who forgets his mother has to face many difficulties. Women should be loved and respected. They should be shown proper gratitude. Only then can men and women attain a high status in society. You may have attained a high position or acquired high degrees like I.A.S., yet you should regard the words of your mother like your life-breath even if she has little education.



being. Man is endowed with great intelligence. It is not ordinary intelligence; it is something which does not have any limit. In spite of that, it is not reflected in his conduct.

Once Lord Easwara was absorbed in intense penance. Parvati wanted to marry him, but her parents had adverse opinion about Siva. They said to her:

Oh Gowri! You are very young and Sambasiva is old;

He has matted locks and wears a tiger skin;

He rides a bull and is constantly on the move;

He is adorned with snakes;

How did you court Him?

Don't you know all this?

He has no house of His own and sleeps in the cremation ground. (Telugu Poem)

She ignored these comments and did not say anything in reply. She was endowed with the knowledge of the Siva principle. In the same way, Siva knew the Parvati principle. Siva and Parvati are, in fact, not different from each other; they are one. Easwara is the embodiment of Siva and Shakti (primal energy) and so is Parvati. But, how can ordinary mortals understand this profound principle? Where there is duality, there is doubt. A man with dual mind is half blind. Easwara and Parvati are beyond all dualities.

Goddess Saraswati also came to Parvati and told her that Easwara was not a suitable match for her. She said, "Dear Parvati! There is no similarity between you and Easwara. Society does not approve of such incompatible matches. You are endowed with all knowledge and power. You yourself know everything fully well. Then, how is it that you have fallen into delusion!" Parvati said in reply to her, "Dear Saraswati! I am devoted only to Easwara and none else. Nobody can change my decision even a bit." Isavasyam Idam Sarvam (the

entire universe is permeated by God). The power of Easwara permeates everything in this world. The same divine power is present in all human beings also. It is the primary duty of man to recognise this power. Just as you cover your body with clothes, God envelopes this world with His Maya (delusion). Thus, in spite of the immanence of the divine principle in the entire universe, man is not able to see it due to this delusion. Easwara Sarva Bhutanam (God is the indweller of all beings). Easwaratwa (principle of divinity) is immanent in all beings. This divine principle is neither related to the age of a person nor to his external appearances.

Lakshmi (the consort of Lord Vishnu) also tried to dissuade Parvati from marrying Easwara. She said, "My dear! You are young, beautiful and highly talented. It will not be proper if such a bride like you marries a person who goes from door to door to beg alms." In reply, Parvati said to Lakshmi, "My bridegroom is not a beggar; rather, he is the one who gives to the entire mankind whatever they beg from him. It is not proper for a person of your status to speak insultingly against such a great person." Some others also questioned Parvati, "How did you decide to marry him when you know that he is always adorned with snakes?" Parvati gave a befitting reply to them, saying, "Snakes have poison only in their fangs, but man has poison in his entire body from top to toe. His vision, his hearing, his actions are all full of poison only. You consider man good whose entire body is filled with poison! If its two fangs are removed, the snake cannot harm anybody. But man with his two poisonous fangs of Ahamkara (ego) and Mamakara (attachment) roams about nonchalantly in the entire world, flaunting them as nectarine rather than poisonous. Though he is full of poison, he considers himself great. But this is a big mistake. How can such a human being be corrected?

One with pride will not be successful in any of his endeavours.



He will commit sins and will be ridiculed by one and all.

His own people will abandon him.

He will lose all wealth and respect.

His pride will ruin him completely.

(Telugu Poem)

Every human being lives by love alone. One who has no love in him is not a human being at all. The love that exists between God and man is like that between a father and his son. Everyone has love for God. In fact, such a sacred love is being maligned due to the impact of evil qualities that have penetrated human society today. This is a great mistake. When man recognises the truth of his divine nature, there will be no differences in human society. We should therefore recognise the divinity that is immanent in one and all. This will bring an end to all differences between man and man. The same divine principle is present in all. All are one, be alike to everyone. In this manner, we should transform ourselves. You read so many sacred texts. Your reading is worthwhile only when you try to realise the truth contained in these texts.

Fill your Mind with the Nectar of Divine Love

Laila and Majnu loved each other. Theirs was sacred and selfless love, not like that of ordinary mortals. Unable to understand the true nature of their love, people attribute all sorts of ignoble motives to their love. The mind should be filled with the nectar of pure love, not the poison of carnal desires. Only then can we experience real happiness. Every human being should try to understand how he has to change and correct himself and what he has to accomplish in this world. After knowing this, he should conduct himself accordingly. Only then can he realise true humanness. The divine principle of 'I' is present in all. This 'I' is not to be construed as Brahma, Vishnu or Easwara. Brahma, Vishnu and Easwara are the names ascribed by

man to different forms of God for identification. He considers Brahma as the creator, Vishnu as the sustainer and Easwara as the destroyer. God gives Darshan to everyone in the form which he contemplates upon. Names are not important. What is important is the divine principle of 'I', which is the real identity of man. He should therefore say, "I am I."

Once when Siva and Parvati were moving about in the sky, they saw a person cutting the branch of a tree on which he was sitting. As he was on the verge of falling, Parvati prayed to Siva to save him, "Oh Lord! Please save him when he falls on the ground." But Siva said to Parvati, "It is you who saw him first. It is you again who realised that he would die when he falls down. So, it is your responsibility to save him." Then Parvati submitted this proposal, "Dear Lord! When someone falls on the ground, he will either utter 'Amma' (mother) or 'Appa' (father). If this man utters 'Amma', then I will save him, but if he utters 'Appa', you should save him." Easwara agreed to this proposal. As the branch broke, both Siva and Parvati became ready to save him. But while falling, this man did not utter 'Amma' or 'Appa'; he uttered 'Ayyo' (alas). Though both Siva and Parvati were waiting to save him, he did not call them. The moral of the story is that we should always remember our parents. The Upanishads declare: Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). You may be highly educated; you may even master all branches of knowledge in this world. But for your mother you are only a child. Your mother's blessings will always be with you. Your life is a waste if you forget your mother. Parvati is the embodiment of primal energy. Her heart is full of compassion and she provides protection to all. We should therefore always remember her. Easwara is the father and Parvati is the mother of mankind. It is possible that sometimes Easwara on his own may



not come forward to help you. But when Parvati decides to come to your rescue, Easwara will also follow. Therefore, first and foremost you should worship Shaktiswarupini (embodiment of primal energy). She is your mother, verily. The Vedas declare: Matru Devo Bhava (revere your mother as God). You should therefore give first place to your mother. We compare our country with mother only. We say, "India is my motherland." Everyone calls his country motherland; nobody calls it fatherland. After marriage, a woman goes to live in the house of her husband. Husband's mother is called mother-in-law in English. But Parvati is mother-in-love for the entire mankind. Law is related to the world while love is related to the heart. Therefore, first and foremost develop love. Consider love as your everything. Only then would you be able to lead a fruitful life.

Give Highest Place to your Mother in your Life

Your mother may not be physically or mentally healthy and strong; yet you should not neglect her. A mother's heart is always full of love for her children. That is why Bhakta Ramadas prayed to Mother Sita, "Oh mother! Please help me by speaking about me to Lord Rama. When you are happily engaged in conversation with Him, convey my prayer to Him." Ramadas worked as a Tehsildar (revenue officer). He prayed to Rama, "Swami! Whatever revenue I collected, I have spent to serve You." He sang thus:

Oh Ramachandra! I have spent ten thousand gold coins to adorn Mother Sita with a gold necklace and another ten thousand sovereigns to decorate Your brother Lakshmana with a gold belt. That crest jewel which adorns You cost me another ten thousand gold coins. Unmindful of my travails, You are flaunting the jewellery as if You have got it with Your own money!
(Telugu Poem)



The mind should be filled with the nectar of pure love, not the poison of carnal desires. Only then can we experience real happiness. Every human being should try to understand how he has to change and correct himself and what he has to accomplish in this world. After knowing this, he should conduct himself accordingly. Only then can he realise true humanness.



One cannot achieve anything in life without getting rid of ego and attachment. Anything can be achieved by humility and good conduct. One should conduct oneself with devotion in all fields of life – moral, spiritual, physical and political. Only then can one realise one's objective in life.

Even when a mother is dead, her soul would be concerned with the welfare of her children. One day, a mother came and prayed to Me, "Swami! My daughter listens to the advice of everyone, but she gives importance only to Your words. My daughter is very obstinate from the very beginning. She does not listen to what I say. But she follows Your advice even if You speak to her only once. She does not ignore Your words". Thus, many mothers come and pray for many things for their children. The mother has the position of foremost importance in one's life. There is no God higher than the mother. One should therefore never forget one's mother. One who forgets his mother has to face many difficulties. Women should be loved and respected. They should be shown proper gratitude.

Only then can men and women attain a high status in society. You may have attained a

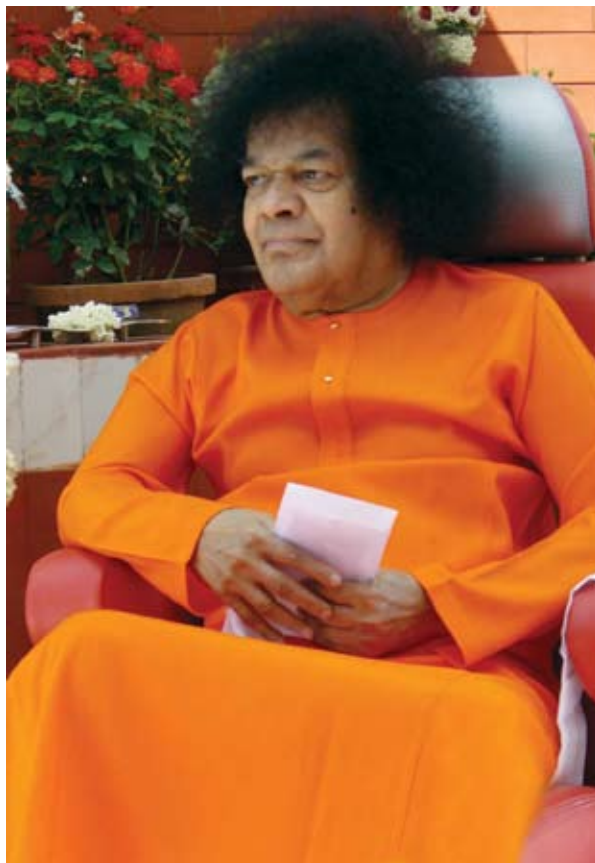


high position or acquired high degrees like I.A.S., yet you should regard the words of your mother like your life-breath even if she has little education.

A mother and her son by name Ishwar-chandra Vidyasagar used to live in a small village near Kolkata. The mother used to struggle a lot to bring up her son. Since there was no electric light in their house, Vidyasagar used to sit under streetlights and

as the officer alighted on the station, he called for a coolie to carry his briefcase. Vidyasagar approached that officer and told him, “Sir, give me that briefcase. I will carry it for you. By the way, where have you to go?” The I.C.S. officer replied, “I am going to the place where Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar will deliver a lecture.” On hearing these words, Vidyasagar was amused and started for the place of the meeting. As

Every human being lives by love alone. One who has no love in him is not a human being at all. The love that exists between God and man is like that between a father and his son. Everyone has love for God. In fact, such a sacred love is being maligned due to the impact of evil qualities that have penetrated human society today. This is a great mistake. When man recognises the truth of his divine nature, there will be no differences in human society. We should therefore recognise the divinity that is immanent in one and all. This will bring an end to all differences between man and man.



study his lessons.

Thus, he worked hard day and night and studied well. Finally, he attained a good position in his life. He became very famous as an orator. People used to gather in thousands to hear his lectures. Once, Vidyasagar was travelling in a train to go to some town to give a lecture there. An I.C.S. officer was also travelling in the same compartment to go to the same town to hear his lecture. As soon

soon as they reached that place, Vidyasagar handed over the briefcase to that officer and said, “Sir! I take leave of you.” The officer offered some money to Vidyasagar for carrying his briefcase, saying, “Look! Take this money.” Vidyasagar replied, “Sir! I have carried your briefcase as an act of service, not for money,” and politely declined the offer of money. The meeting commenced. Vidyasagar was profusely garlanded and brought



on the stage with honour. The officer, on seeing Vidyasagar recognised him as the person who carried his briefcase a few minutes ago. He felt very embarrassed. As soon as the meeting was over, he fell at the feet of Vidyasagar and begged for pardon. It was his humility and good conduct that brought great honour to Vidyasagar. People read his life story in books even now. Greatness does not lie in reading books; it can be attained only by humility and obedience.

Ego and Attachment Ruin a Man's Life

There are many highly educated persons in the world today. But, what is the use? What benefit is society deriving from them? It is ego and attachment which become the cause of man's ruination. One can achieve true greatness by getting rid of these two. Once Adi Sankara entered into a debate with a famous scholar Mandana Mishra. Mandana Mishra's wife Ubhayabharati was endowed with the knowledge of all sacred texts. So, she was chosen to decide the winner in the debating contest between her husband and Adi Sankara. Mandana Mishra vowed that he would take to Sannyas (renunciation) if he was defeated in the debate. After the debate, Ubhayabharati declared that Adi Sankara was the winner and her husband was the loser. According to the vow undertaken by Mandana Mishra, he took to Sannyas after his defeat. As a dutiful wife, Ubhayabharati also became a renunciant and started living in an Ashram. There she used to impart the knowledge of spirituality to her female disciples.

One day, Ubhayabharati was going to the river Ganga along with her disciples. On the way, she observed a Sannyasi who was lying down under a tree. He was keeping a dried bottle gourd, which he used for storing water, under his head as a precaution that somebody may not steal it. Seeing this, Ubhayabharati said to her disciples loudly enough for the Sannyasi to hear, "Look! He declares that he is totally detached from

everything. But see how he is attached to his bottle gourd!" The Sannyasi was enraged at this remark of Ubhayabharati. When she returned along with her disciples from the Ganga after having her bath, the Sannyasi threw the bottle gourd in front of them. Then Ubhayabharati remarked, "I thought, he had only one defect in him, viz., attachment. Now I realise that he has two



Continued on cover page III ...

BUDDHA PURNIMA AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

THE HOLY festival of Buddha Purnima was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with deep devotion and dedication in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on 21st and 22nd May 2007. Beautiful decorations were done in all the temples of Prasanthi Nilayam on this auspicious occasion. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of celebrations, bore a festive look with shining festoons, colourful flowers and many other decorations. A beautiful altar was set up on the right side of the dais with an idol of Buddha in the centre. On the left side of the dais was placed another idol of Buddha for its ceremonial bathing. The celebrations were organised jointly by five countries of Zone 5 of international Sai Organisation, viz., Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Sri Lanka.

Bhagavan was welcomed with Vedic chants and Buddhist Slokas along with drum music when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.15 a.m. on 21st May 2007. Bhagavan inaugurated the programme by lighting the sacred lamp at the altar at 9.25 a.m. The first item of the programme



A beautiful altar was set up on the dais in Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of Buddha Purnima celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

was a dance by the Bal Vikas children of Hong Kong. Their graceful movements to the tune of drum music delighted one and all. This was followed by another dance by the youth of Okinawa, Japan in their colourful dress along with a turban. First, they made beautiful formations with red flags in their hands and then performed a vigorous dance while playing on the small drums in their hands. After this began the sacred ceremony of bathing the idol of



The youth of Okinawa, Japan performed a scintillating dance to the beat of drums as part of Buddha Purnima celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam on 21st May 2007.

Buddha, a symbol of inner purification. While a selected number of devotees bathed the idol placed on the dais, a senior monk chanted sacred Buddhist Mantras.

Soul-elevating Bhajans led alternately by ladies and gents devotees of the host countries followed, which filled each heart with divine bliss. During Bhajans, Prasadam was distributed to the entire congregation in Sai Kulwant Hall. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.25 a.m.

On the afternoon of 21st May, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.05 p.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants, and showered the bliss of Darshan on the devotees. Occupying His seat on the dais, Bhagavan listened to the Vedic Mantras chanted by the youth of the host countries for nearly fifteen minutes. The programme began with an introductory speech by the Chairman of Zone 5 of the international Sathya Sai Organisation, Sri Nari Chugani. Expressing his gratitude to Bhagavan for His gracious permission to hold Buddha Purnima in His Divine Presence, the speaker dwelt on the teachings of Buddha and said that non-violence, peace, love and purity were interrelated and interdependent. He then introduced the two speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering.

The first speaker was Dr. Ven Bellanvilla Wilmalaratna of Sri Lanka who observed that Buddha's emotions were refined and so he could understand human nature perfectly. His compassion, the learned speaker said, was universal irrespective of the social stigma cast on some by society. Buddha, he said in conclusion, was concerned with the suffering of people and showed them the path of freedom from suffering. The second

speaker was Rev. Tulku Karma Gyurme Sonam Rinpoche of Florida, U.S.A. Referring to the similarity between the teachings of Buddha and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the learned speaker observed that both have declared that man by nature is Buddha; he is essentially divine, and he should follow the right path to realise his divinity. Then alone, the learned speaker observed, could man transcend all limitations and attain freedom from the cycle of birth and death as demonstrated by Lord Buddha by his example.

After these speeches, the Japanese youth presented the drama "The Story of Buddha", depicting the life and teachings of Buddha by enacting some significant episodes from his life. Realistic performance of these episodes made the drama a lively presentation. Bhagavan blessed the participants of the



A scene from the drama "The Story of Buddha" presented by the Japanese youth in Sai Kulwant Hall on 21st May 2007.

drama at its conclusion and posed for group photos with them. Soul-stirring Bhajans led by the devotees of host countries, both ladies and gents, followed this drama and immersed all in divine bliss. The programme came to a close at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.



The programme on 22nd May commenced after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan at 4.35 p.m. The first item of the programme was an excellent musical presentation entitled “Taiko” (Japanese drums). After this, the Japanese youth gave a scintillating dance performance, making many beautiful formations with fans and flowers they carried in their hands. This was followed by Hong Kong ladies choir which presented an excellent medley of old classics and freshly composed songs in loving devotion to Lord Buddha and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.



Buddha Purnima celebrations came to a happy conclusion at Prasanthi Nilayam with the traditional closing Buddhist ceremony “Gomadaki”.

The closing Buddhist ceremony “Gomadaki” was performed to bring the programme to its sacred conclusion. Buddhist priests chanted sacred Mantras in front of fire, filling the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. Buddha Purnima

celebrations concluded at Prasanthi Nilayam with Bhajans led by the Bhajan singers of the host countries. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.10 p.m.

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICAL SCIENCES

Prasanthigram - 515 134, Anantapur District (A.P.) India

Fax: 08555-287544 Email: adminpg@sssihms.org.in

Applications are invited containing complete biodata and enclosing thereto a passport size photo from qualified personnel for the following posts in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram – 515 134, Anantapur Dist. A.P.

1. Orthopaedic Department

Junior Consultants
Senior Residents
Medical Officers

2. Anaesthesiology Department

Consultant
Senior Residents

3. Laboratories

Clinical Pathologist
ESWL Technician
Pathology Technician } With a minimum
qualification of
B.Sc. (CBZ)

4. Engineering Department

Assistant Electrician
Driver – Grade II
Telephone Operators

5. Nursing

Sister Grade II

6. Administration

Assistant Public Relations Officer
Office Attendants

7. Sanitation

Sanitary Supervisor
Hospital Attendant Grade II

Director

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

SAI YOUTH AROUND THE WORLD are preparing with devotion, dedication, energy and enthusiasm for Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference at Prasanthi Nilayam in July 2007. Pre-World Youth Conferences have recently been organised in Canada, Paraguay, Japan, Italy, Argentina and New Zealand to prepare the youth for this important event.

CANADA

Two Pre-World Youth Conferences were conducted in Canada. The first conference was held at the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Vancouver on 7th March 2007. About 50 youth attended the event. A panel discussion was held on this occasion which focused on how to be ideal Sai Youth and practise Swami's teachings in everyday life. The importance of leading a balanced spiritual life was emphasised. The teen youth programme and its implementation were also discussed. At the end of the programme, a pledge was made for all Sai Youth to participate in a national 'ceiling on desires' programme and perform selfless service with love, humility and dedication.

The second Pre-World Youth Conference was held in Toronto on 7th April 2007. About 220 youth attended this event. The day's activities and seminars were designed to prepare youth delegates for Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference at Prasanthi Nilayam. A talk was given by Dr. Aroon Yusuf, National Youth Coordinator, on becoming spiritually empowered leaders of Sai values through prayer, meditation, Namasmarana, selfless service and love. Sri Sathya



A section of the youth who participated in the Pre-World Youth Conference in Toronto, Canada on 7th April 2007 in preparation to the forthcoming World Youth Conference at Prasanthi Nilayam in July 2007.

Parthasarathy, a former student of Sri Sathya Sai University, spoke on realising inner divinity through selfless service. In addition, there were workshops on topics such as Swami's messages on love, service, ceiling on desires and balanced youth. At the end of the conference, regional and national service projects were initiated. Western Canadian youth started the project of providing milk to homeless children and Eastern Canadian youth started a blood donation drive. Four other projects began as a result of this conference: distribution of packages consisting of food and toiletry essentials to homeless people, monthly youth Narayana Seva, homeless street Seva and Seva for mother earth in the form of community cleanup and tree planting by youth. The conference concluded with a talk by Dr. V.P. Singh, Central Coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Canada, in which he spoke of Bhagavan's teachings for youth and how to implement them in daily life as messengers of Sai love.



PARAGUAY

The Sathya Sai Organisation in Paraguay organised a Pre-World Youth Conference on 24th March 2007 at the Sai Centre in the capital city of Asuncion. The highlight of the programme was a presentation and discussion of the youth Sadhana programme. This was followed by a workshop entitled “Ideal Sai Youth”. The President of the South Central Council, Sri Kishore Nanwani, shared his spiritual knowledge and motivated the Sai Youth to follow the Sadhana programme. This was followed by jyoti meditation and a study circle on Prema Vahini. In the study circle, questions were raised and discussed such as: “How does Sai teach me to be an ideal Sai Youth? What virtues should I have that help me to become one? What are the obstacles?” The youth shared their personal experiences of Bhagavan and how He had transformed their lives. The programme concluded with a resolve to continue the Sadhana practice and meet again as a group.

JAPAN

A Pre-World Youth Conference was held at Mount Mitake near Tokyo on 24th and 25th March 2007. The theme of the conference was “Ideal Sai Youth”. During the conference, participants prepared themselves for the forthcoming Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference and for Buddha Purnima. About 33 youth attended the programme, some of them travelling almost 1,500 km. Sri Dayal Samnani and Sri Genzo Makino, National Coordinator and Deputy National Coordinator respectively of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Japan provided valuable guidelines for the conduct of the proceedings. The programme began with Veda chanting, Bhajan singing

and a cultural programme. Two workshops were held: The first was on “Buddha’s Noble Eightfold Path” and the second was on “Becoming an Ideal Sai Youth”. During the second workshop, all of Swami’s Discourses from the first two World Youth Conferences were discussed. The evening programme on the first day consisted of a cultural programme which began by chanting of the Vedas. This was followed by an Okinawa style dance and devotional songs. At the end of the day, the youth were asked to write on a piece of wood one undesirable quality that they would like to eschew. These pieces of wood were then placed at the altar as a resolution to surrender this undesirable quality at the feet of Bhagavan.



A drama on the life of Buddha was enacted during the Pre-World Youth Conference held at Mount Mitake near Tokyo, Japan on 24th and 25th March 2007. The theme of this conference was “Ideal Sai Youth”.

On the second day, a general Sai Youth meeting was held to discuss how Swami’s teachings could be applied in daily life. In the evening, a drama on the life of Buddha was enacted based on Bhagavan’s Discourses.

ITALY

A Pre-World Youth Conference was held on 29th and 30th April 2007 at





In the Pre-World Youth Conference held at the Mother Sai Complex in Milan, Italy on 29th – 30th April 2007, about 70 youth from ten countries took part and discussed the value of Sadhana in the life of the youth.

the Mother Sai Complex in Milan immediately following the first European Sai Games. About 70 youth from 10 countries attended the conference. The programme began on 29th April with the introduction of the “Love All, Serve All” project. This is a music project based on Sathya Sai Human Values. Four countries (Croatia, Italy, Poland and Slovenia) had composed songs on one human value each. This was followed by a musical programme of devotional songs and Bhajans in European native languages and Sanskrit.



Dedicating their life to morality and spiritual upliftment in society, Sai Youth of Italy prepare for the World Youth Conference to be held at Prasanthi Nilayam in July 2007.

The next day commenced with a speech by Alida Parkes, Chairperson of Southern Europe (Zone 6) of the Sathya Sai Organisation who asked the youth to make a pledge to Swami that they would devote their lives to practise morality and spiritual upliftment in society. Zone 6 Youth Coordinator, Ivan Bavcevic, then introduced the programme for the Pre-World Youth Conference and read selected parts of Bhagavan’s Discourses for youth. Northern Europe (Zone 7) Youth Coordinator, Mathias Seitel, described his experiences of the Zone 7 Pre-World Youth Conference recently held in Berlin, Germany. A discussion ensued on the ways to implement the World Youth Conference Sadhana in daily life beyond the conference. The afternoon session included a presentation of a musical programme in various European languages to develop a sense of unity among the European youth from all the zones within Europe. The group then worked on planning their World Youth Conference exhibition kiosk on “Ceiling on Desires”.

ARGENTINA

A Pre-World Youth Conference was held on 10th and 11th February 2007 at the General Belgrano Village in Cordoba. The conference began with a welcome address by Sri Anibal Arminchiardi, President of the Central Region, Sathya Sai Organisation of Argentina. Using a workshop format, the group of youth then composed a song called “Chanting God under the Sun” with music direction by Sri Mariano Olmedo, the Devotion Coordinator. Two workshops were then held during the rest of the day. The first workshop was entitled “The Treasure of Unity,” and involved activities based on an understanding of unity among all. The second was a workshop on leadership and began with Omkar, Suprabhatam, Bhajans

and jyoti meditation. This was followed by a group walk up a hill and Satsang amidst Nature where divine experiences of Swami were narrated. The youth walked down the hill in "Sailence". In the evening, there was a workshop in which youth shared their personal experiences of Swami and practised meditation. One youth described how he was stopped from committing suicide by a vision of Bhagavan. The conference concluded with a presentation on the Sadhana programme and a lively discussion on how to continue practical implementation of the Sadhana in daily life.

NEW ZEALAND

From 7th to 9th April 2007, a Pre-World Youth Conference was held at Camp Adair in South Auckland and was attended by 103 Sai Youth. The theme of the conference was: The Spiritual Revolution – Sharpening our Inner Vision. On 7th April, the day began with chanting of the Vedas, light meditation, Bhajans and yoga. The guest speaker was Sri K. Naran. He spoke of sharpening inner vision by crushing the ego. He said that humanity needed greater tolerance and understanding, and youth should strive for good company. He urged all youth to diligently practise the principles learnt in the conference. Study circles were held on the practical application of Swami's teachings and how to dive deep into them to have good understanding. Sports and team building activities were also held.

The next day was Easter Sunday. The day began with devotional songs followed by light meditation and yoga. The youth then performed an interactive play called "Egobusters" that sought to bring about a positive change. The evening programme included plays on: Spiritual Revolution, Sharpening Inner Vision, Atmic Reality, and Enriching

and Transforming Human Communities. The conference ended on the following day with a resolution to practise spiritual Sadhana and selfless service in daily life.

BRAZIL

On 31st March 2007, young adults from Sao Paulo helped in the planning and administration of a medical camp and community adoption project, serving nearly 1,000 needy people. In another project based in Sao Paulo, Sai Youth conducted values-based classes as well as study circles. In early 2007, Sai Youth in the city of Rio de Janeiro worked hard with adult devotees to help renovate the Vila Izabel Sai School.

FIJI

Sai Youth of Laukota have been conducting a monthly food distribution programme for homeless children. They prepare hot meals and pack them for distribution. While handing out the packets, the youth cheerfully converse with the children and share their joys and sorrows. In another project, Sai Youth visit the Naikumbula Homes, a shelter for poor families. The Naikumbula Homes administration requires the residents to find work while they are provided with free shelter. Sai Youth distribute food and clothing to these families on a regular basis. Young adults from Sai Centre in Ba working in unity with the Sai Centres in Melbourne and Epping serve orphaned and abandoned children of the Treasure Home, a shelter for destitute children. They visit the Home and distribute milk powder, food, diapers, clothing, and play with the children.

U. S. A.

Young adults from the Sathya Sai Centres of New York City make



monthly visits to the Coler-Goldwater Speciality Hospital and Nursing Home. The aim of the visits is to bring joy to ailing patients through conversation, cultural programmes and gifts. In a function held on 17th October 2006, the hospital administration gave a Community Service Award to the young adults of the New York City Sai Centres acknowledging their service to the hospital patients.

– **Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation**

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: Ranga Reddy district started three new Bhajan Mandalis, in Yenkepally on 1st April 2007 and in Gundumal and Yapral on 14th April 2007. On this occasion, a free medical camp was conducted in Yenkepally, treating 150 patients and Narayana Seva was carried out for 1,000 people. This district conducted two youth meetings, one at Tandur for the youth of six rural Samithis on 8th April 2007 in which 198 youth took part and another at BHEL for the youth of seven urban Samithis on 15th April 2007 in which 120 youth participated and discussed at length the role of youth in the Divine Mission. Thoughtful cultural programmes were arranged on this occasion to spread Sai's message. 12 Samithis of the district started drinking water centres at 14 places.

Karimnagar district came to the rescue of six fire victim families in Thungur village by providing them clothes, cooking utensils, food provisions and blankets. It conducted a free veterinary camp treating 528 animals in Putnur village and a free medical camp in Gudipalli village treating 150 patients. This district conducted a symposium on the "The Role of Women in the Integrated Development of India" at Jagtyala in which 200 people took part. The

district is running a free 45-day training class in tailoring in Bappapuram village in which 16 persons are learning.

Srikakulam district conducted a medical camp in Kambakaya village on 7th April 2007 treating 89 patients, another in Palla on 22nd April 2007 treating 382 patients, adopted nine pregnant women giving them food provisions and medical aid and helped 40 fire victim families in Bhagiradhipuram by giving 10 kg rice to each family along with clothes on 8th April 2007. This district arranged orientation programmes on human values for 88 wardens of welfare hostels on 12th and 13th April 2007 at Amadalavalasa, for 89 doctors at Srikakulam on 13th April 2007, and for 152 BDS students at Srikakulam on the same day. It held a Bal Vikas teachers workshop at the new colony of Srikakulam in which 124 Bal Vikas Gurus took part. The district opened a new Sri Sathya Sai Mandir at Chinna Gujuvada on 24th April 2007.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh: A State-level Akhanda Bhajan of 82 hours was organised at Bilaspur, a prominent city of



An Akhanda Bhajan was organised at Bilaspur from 5th to 8th April 2007 as part of the celebrations of 82nd year of the Advent of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Picture shows the decorations on the altar.

Chhatisgarh State, as part of the celebrations of 82nd year of the Advent of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The Bhajan was held from 8.00 a.m. on 5th April to 6.00 p.m. on 8th April at Rail Sanskrit Niketan, Bilaspur, where over 800 singers from all over the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh apart from hundreds of local devotees came and sang the glory of our Beloved Bhagavan.

The stage was beautifully set and decorated on the style of Prasanthi Mandir by two devotees who offered their services for the same, and it seemed every inch to be a replica of Sai Kulwant Hall. A wide coverage was given on a local TV channel, and a local Hindi newspaper gave an exclusive full-page coverage on Bhagavan Baba and His work. A sales centre displaying photos and Sai literature and a medical help centre were set up.

A Sarva Dharma cake specially made for this occasion was offered to our Beloved Lord at the conclusion of the Akhanda Bhajan. Some of the former students and a present student of Bhagavan's university at Prasanthi Nilayam gave a treat of Bhajans on the last day. The presence of Bhagavan was felt throughout the Bhajan.



A section of the devotees who participated in the Akhanda Bhajan for 82 hours organised by the Sai Organisation of Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh at Bilaspur in April 2007.

BHAGAVAN RETURNS TO PRASANTHI NILAYAM

After showering bliss on thousands of devotees at Kodaikanal for three weeks, Bhagavan returned to Prasanthi Nilayam on 18th May 2007. Earlier, Bhagavan left Sai Sruthi, His Ashram at Kodaikanal, at about 7.30 a.m. and reached Palani, popular for the famous Subramania Temple, at 9.30 a.m. After a brief halt at Palani, Bhagavan left for Coimbatore and reached there at about 12.30 p.m. After blessing thousands of devotees at Coimbatore, Bhagavan along with His entourage boarded the chartered plane at 2.30 p.m. and reached Prasanthi Nilayam Airport at 3.30 p.m. It was indeed a special boon for the people of Prasanthi Nilayam as Bhagavan chose to return to this valley of supreme peace after His Kodai sojourn, deviating from His usual practice of going to Brindavan.

The entire route of Bhagavan was decorated with colourful flags, festoons and welcome banners. Devotees in large numbers lined up on either side of the road and welcomed Bhagavan by breaking coconuts, showering flower petals on the car and offering Arati. Bhagavan was received with Poornakumbham, Veda chanting and a welcome song when He entered Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.00 p.m. Before retiring to His residence, Bhagavan showered the bliss of His Darshan on the devotees assembled in Sai Kulwant Hall where Arati was offered to Him.

SAI GEETA

A DEVOTEE PAR EXCELLENCE

BHAGAVAN'S BELOVED elephant Sai Geeta which served Him for over half a century and was part of all celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam for decades breathed its last on 22nd May 2007. It was a painless and peaceful end of a life dedicated totally to Bhagavan whose motherly love and divine grace it received in abundance all through its life. With its death, a saga of unmatched, unique and sublime love between Bhagavan and Sai Geeta came to an end, filling the hearts of thousands of devotees with a sense of irreparable loss.

Bhagavan came to its shed at 7.30 a.m. on 23rd May 2007, materialised Vibhuti and sprinkled it on its body. Later, Bhagavan came again at 10.30 a.m.

when a crane was requisitioned to put its body in a specially made pit. The body was lowered into the pit amidst Veda chanting and Bhajan singing by the students of Sri Sathya Sai University while Bhagavan stayed there for nearly two hours, supervising the arrangements of its burial with full honours.

Sai Geeta was a small calf when it was brought to Prasanthi Nilayam. Though it had lost its mother just after its birth, what it received from Mother Sai was the love of a thousand mothers. In the beginning, it was housed in a specially constructed shed attached to the

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Sai Geeta, which was a common sight during all celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam for decades, led a life totally dedicated to Bhagavan.

ONCE SOME SANNYASINS (renunciants) were walking along the bank of the Ganga. Looking at the sublimely flowing Ganga, they were experiencing great bliss. At one place, a big depression was caused



Without caring how many times the scorpion bit him, the renunciant ultimately succeeded in saving its life.

due to fall of water from a great height, resulting in the formation of foam there. From somewhere, a scorpion came and fell into the foam. Seeing this scorpion, one of the renunciants lamented, “Ah! This scorpion is caught in the foam and is not able to come out of it.” To save this scorpion, the renunciant got into water and put his hand in the foam. At once, the scorpion bit at his hand. He again put his hand in the foam and the scorpion again bit him. Even then the renunciant did not leave his attempt to save the scorpion. Without caring how many times it bit him, the renunciant ultimately succeeded in bringing it to the bank.

Seeing this, the other renunciants commented, “The scorpion did not stop biting you though you

were trying to save it. This indeed is its nature. But you have taken great pains to save it!” Then that renunciant replied, “Yes, this scorpion taught me a good lesson about one’s true nature. It did not forget its nature even when it was caught between life and death. But I am a human being. Kindness to all beings is man’s true nature. When being a scorpion, it did not leave its nature, how can I, being a human, leave my nature? By saving this scorpion, I have merely manifested my true nature. There is nothing so very special about it.”

Man can realise the truth of his reality only when he recognises his Dharma or true nature.



“When, being a scorpion it did not forget its nature, how can I, being a human, leave my nature?” said the renunciant to his companions.

WATERING THE ROOTS OF HUMAN SOCIETY

“WORK FOR THE WELFARE of villages with firm resolve and unity of purpose!” This was Bhagavan’s message on 20th March 2007, the sacred day of Ugadi. Inspired by the clarion call, there has been intense activity across the land to reach out to rural areas, solve their problems and initiate projects for rural development. One of the major problems of India is the supply of safe drinking water to the people of villages. Bhagavan in His mercy has provided water to the villagers of Anantapur, Medak, Mahboobnagar, East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh and the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

This year, villages surrounding Puttaparthi were put to acute drinking water shortage. Taking note of this, Bhagavan gave instructions to provide water to the affected villages. Hence, a survey was conducted to identify the villages which were facing drinking water crisis. In four days, a list was prepared of the villages and households and arrangements were made to supply drinking water to the affected villages with the help of a water tanker.

Starting on 2nd of April 2007, volunteers went round distributing drinking water to the villagers. In the first phase, nearly 1,800 households in 15 villages including Vengalamma Cheruvu, Potulakunta, Bandlapalli, Kotlapalli and other hamlets of Puttaparthi and Kothacheruvu Mandals were served regularly. The water supply would start at 6.00 a.m. in the morning and would go on uninterrupted till 6.00 p.m. in the evening.

Meanwhile, villagers from the villages of Bukkapatnam Mandal prayed to Bhagavan to save them from drinking water problem. In immediate response to their request, He procured another huge tanker of 24,000 litre capacity and gave instructions to begin water supply by the second tanker from 2nd May 2007. Thus, in the second phase, two tankers began covering 24 villages, delivering water to 4,500 households.

It is indeed a great service to provide life-sustaining drinking water to the thirsty. Bhagavan’s grace and love have given a shape and direction



Sri Sathya Sai drinking water supply to villages surrounding Puttaparthi.

to this service. The response to this service is also heartening as perceived from the grateful greetings of the villagers. As the tanker leaves a village, the villagers express their gratitude to Bhagavan, saying “Sai Ram! Sai Ram! Sai Ram!”

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defects, attachment and ego. A person cannot become totally detached from everything unless he gets rid of Abhimana and Ahamkara.” After hearing her comment, the Sannyasi fell at the feet of Ubhayabharati and begged pardon from her for his defects. Ubhayabharati then said to him, “Dear child! Now you have become a real renunciant.”

In this world, people follow diverse paths. Lord Krishna imparted the knowledge of all these paths and declared that the principle of love that was present in all was the same in everyone. Duryodhana and Dussasana harboured demonic qualities. But Karna was not like that. He was

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Prasanthi Mandir on the western side of the wall from where Bhagavan could see it any time from His bedroom. But as the number of devotees increased, another shed was made for it on the northern side of the Prasanthi Mandir where the idols of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman are now installed. However, its residence was shifted again on the north-western corner of the Mandir and later to Sri Sathya Sai Gokulam. As the number of cows increased in Gokulam and the need was felt to provide it more space and better attention, a spacious high-rise shed was specially constructed in front of the Senior Boys Hostel to accommodate it. It was shifted to its present location in November 2006 when Sri Sathya Sai Indoor Stadium was constructed.

Though, it was sent to a forest for nearly

a man of noble qualities. He did not have even a trace of ego and attachment. We should therefore emulate Karna, develop noble qualities and shed the demonic qualities represented by Duryodhana and Dussasana. The students should hear only that which is good, put it into practice, experience bliss and share it with one and all. They should consider this as their foremost duty.

– From Bhagavan’s Sivarathri Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 17th February 2007.

three months, it never mixed with other elephants. On its return to Prasanthi Nilayam, some experts predicted that it could give birth to a calf. But nothing of this sort happened. It, as Bhagavan said, was a perfect celibate. Though born as an animal, it had no animal instincts, and its entire focus throughout its stay at Prasanthi Nilayam for more than 50 years was Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It led its life as though it lived only for Bhagavan and dedicated its life to Him with one-pointed devotion, an example worth emulating by all human beings. Sai Geeta was, no doubt, a devotee par excellence who reached the pinnacle of devotion, surrender and self-sacrifice in spite of its birth as an animal.

