

and resound are based on your own thoughts, words and actions; God is not responsible for them. If you stand before a mirror, you will see your own reflection. In whatever way you speak to others, you will have the resound in the same way. Whatever thoughts you have in your mind, they will be reflected back to you. It is therefore essential for man to know whether his thoughts and actions are good or bad. Whatever good or bad you experience is the result of your thoughts, words and actions. When any bad thought comes into your mind, give it up immediately. If you conduct yourself in this manner, you will become a true devotee of God and achieve liberation.

Everyone has to face the consequences of his actions, whoever he may be.

No one can know what lies ahead for him in future.

But this much is sure that everybody has to reap the consequences of his actions.

Even the mighty Rama suffered the pain of separation from His consort Sita and cried like an ordinary person.

(Telugu Song)

Young Men!

Good and bad coexist. It is not possible for anyone to separate them. When you cultivate more of goodness, the bad in you will become absolutely insignificant. There is no need to use any force to drive away all that is bad. When you forget bad, goodness will develop in you in full measure. This is the message I would like to give on this day. Do not think that the New Year will give you some new fruits. The fruits that you earn will be based on your qualities and actions. All that you think will be reflected back to you. Everything is the result of your thoughts.

World is Reaction, Reflection and Resound

Once there was a cowherd who used to take cows for grazing to a place surrounded by three mountains. One day when the cows were grazing, he sat down under a tree and started singing a song in praise of God. As he sang the song, he heard its echo. He thought that someone was imitating his song to tease him. Therefore, he shouted in anger at the invisible intruder, and heard its resound in the same angry tone. In this state of anger, he went home and did not even take his food. His mother asked him why he was so upset. He narrated what had happened. Next day, his mother accompanied him and came to know that it was his own echo which was the cause of his trouble. In the same manner if you criticise or abuse anybody, all that will come back to you. The world is nothing but reaction, reflection and resound. Whatever you do will come back to you, and nothing else. This is the divine law. Those who are full of love will see love everywhere. Those who are full of hatred will see enemies all around. Therefore, love and hatred do not come from outside. They have their origin within you. The good and bad you experience arise out of your own feelings. God is not responsible for any of these. God is *Nirguna, Niranjana, Sanathana* (attributeless, pure, eternal). It is only your feelings that change. God is changeless.

Students!

All your feelings are reflected back to you. Everything is within you. Whatever you experience is the reaction, reflection and resound of your thoughts and feelings. You see somebody laughing and think that he is laughing at you. But how can you conclude in this manner? Once a



famous wrestler was doing exercise on a road early in the morning. At that time, a woman was coming from a village to sell milk and curd. When he looked at her, he felt she was laughing at him. The wrestler became angry and said to the woman, "How dare you laugh at me? Do you know who am I? Are you aware of my strength?" The woman replied, "I am not laughing at you. You are so strong that you can stop a speeding car with one hand. What is the use of your physical strength if you lack forbearance?" All our notions are based upon our deluded feelings.

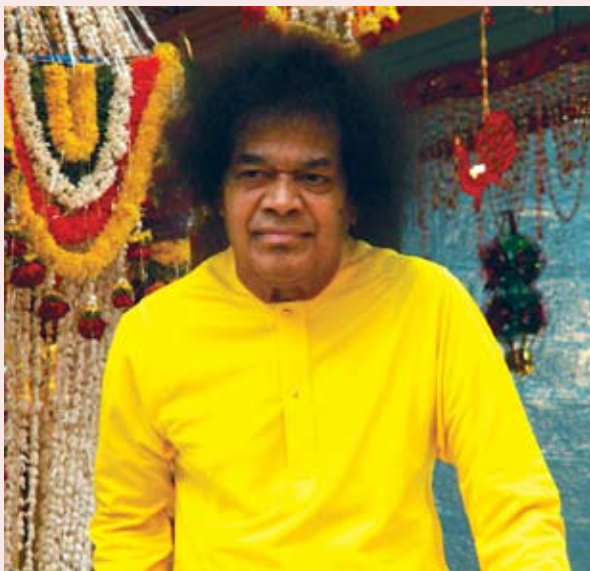
Be Good, Do Good, See Good

Students!

No doubt, your inner feelings are good. But they undergo change depending upon what you see and hear. It is the external impulses that are responsible for changes in your thoughts and feelings. Truly speaking, there is no human form. In fact, there is no form at all. It is because of your illusion that you see a form and give a name to it. It is a sign of foolishness to think so. You may think that you are highly educated and very intelligent. But how can you call yourself so if you are ignorant of your true Self? You can be called truly educated only when you know your real nature. If you do not know your own truth, how can you know the truth of others?

First of all, you should control your mind. Only then can your worship and prayer be fruitful. The mind is the root cause of the world. *Manah Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo* (mind is the cause of bondage and liberation of man). It is comparatively easy to control the body, but not the mind. When Pramila, the ruler of women's kingdom, captured the Aswamedha horse and defeated Arjuna in the battle, Arjuna told her

that she could arrest his body but not his mind. It may be possible to capture the whole world with army, weapons and bombs, but it is not possible for anyone to capture the mind. When you gain control over your mind, everything else will come under your control. Therefore, you should make all efforts to control your mind. Then you are sure to become an ideal and great person. First and foremost, you should know your mistakes and try to rectify



People think that it is God who is the cause of their happiness and sorrow. But it is not really so. Each one is responsible for his actions and reaps their consequences, good or bad. God is the eternal witness and does not interfere in this. He neither gives happiness nor sorrow. If you talk endearingly to someone, he will also speak to you in the same loving manner. But if you talk in an arrogant way, you will get a similar response. As is the action, so is the reaction.



them. Only then can you aspire to become a Mumukshu (spiritual aspirant). Knowingly or unknowingly, you may have committed some mistakes. Once you know your mistakes, you should have repentance. Repentance is true atonement. This is the royal path which leads to divinity. There is little use in performing Puja (worship), Vratas (rituals) and Yajnas without repentance and atonement.

Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham (out of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). It is not easy to attain human form. Man is not a mere mortal. He is verily divine. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). If you do or think something bad, you are not divine. First of all, you should become a good person. Be good, do good, see good. This is the way to God.

Develop the Qualities Exemplified by Rama and Sita

Students!

First of all, you have to control your mind. Offer your mind to God. He can do everything for you. Have deep devotion to God with firm faith that He is everywhere.

Do not doubt that God is here and not there. Wherever you search for Him, He is there.
(Telugu Poem)

Where is God? *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe). Many people are not able to recognise this truth. God is present in all beings, be it a small insect like an ant or a big animal like an elephant or a lion. He is present in a particle of sand and also in a particle of sugar.

Discharge your duty earnestly with devotion to God. Put your knowledge into practice and earn a good name. I never prevent anyone from pursuing his studies. But along with acquiring secular knowledge, you should acquire spiritual knowledge also. Proper enquiry of the mind and purity of heart are very essential.

Students!

You have completed the academic year, and you will now go home for vacation. You will be looking for your results and searching your roll number in the list of successful candidates. More than searching your roll number, search your heart. If you have really written well, you are sure to find your roll number. On the other hand, if you have not written your examination well, you should not be delighted even when you find your roll number in the list of successful candidates. It is not the number of marks that are important. What is important is that you should become number one man (*loud applause*).

This morning, our students sang the song conveying the message that one should have a son like Rama and a daughter like Sita. You may aspire to have a son like Rama and a daughter like Sita. But, how is it possible when you have the demonic qualities of Ravana and Surpanakha? If you want a son like Rama, you should follow Dharma like Him. If you aspire to have a daughter like Sita, you should have the virtues as exemplified by Sita. Whatever form you aspire for, you should cultivate the same type of qualities corresponding to that. Only then can you attain harmony, tolerance and peace. Where is peace? Peace lies in the control of the senses. If you are not able to control your senses, you cannot attain peace; you will get only pieces. If you want to be peaceful, you have to imbibe the qualities of quietude and composure.



Let anybody criticise, abuse or hurt you; you should maintain your composure. When someone criticises you, do not take it to heart. Think that his tongue has produced some sound. You have nothing to do with it. If you receive the abuses hurled at you, you will be affected by them. Otherwise, you will not be disturbed. Even if somebody beats you, think that he has beaten your body and not you. In fact, none can ever harm or hurt you, because you are not the body. If you have such a firm conviction, then you will not have anger or hatred towards even those who abuse or assault you. Therefore, firm conviction is most essential for peace.

Offer your Heart to God in Prayer

Draupadi had deep devotion for Krishna. She prayed to Him, "Oh Krishna! I worship You day and night. Oh Lord! Be compassionate and protect me. If You are compassionate towards me, then I will not be bothered about any other thing in life." Draupadi faced many challenges and ordeals in life, but her devotion towards Krishna remained unaffected. Thyagaraja said, "Oh Lord! I have been praying to You incessantly. Why are You depriving me of Your love and compassion? What is that I have not offered to You?"

I have surrendered my wealth, my family and everything to You. Now, please come to my rescue. I seek refuge only in You.

(Sanskrit Sloka)

Mere words are not enough when you pray; you should offer your heart to God in prayer.

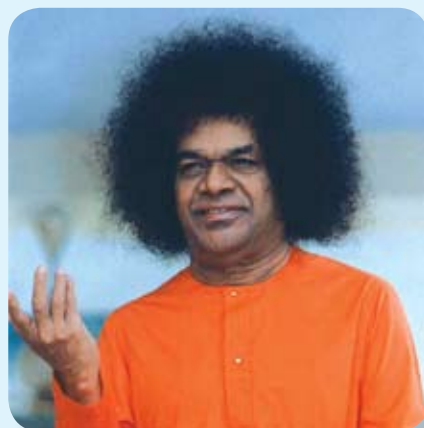
Man has a name and a form, but the Atma transcends both. It has neither a name nor a form. People like some particular names and forms. One cannot have faith in many names and forms, but one can surely have faith in the formless principle of the Atma which is present in all. *Na Atma Sakshi* (my Atma is the witness) is a common saying in Telugu, which shows that people have faith in the Atma. That is why Atma is the common name for all. Some may pray to Rama, others may pray to Krishna. Names and forms are many, but Divinity is one. Atma is the nameless, formless divinity. When you worship such a formless and nameless divine principle, you will certainly attain Divinity.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho ...*")

– From Bhagavan's Ugadi Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 30th March 2006.

Paramatma (God) cannot be known without faith and steadfastness. Only through Prema (love) comes Sraddha (steadfast faith); only through Sraddha comes Jnana (wisdom); only through Jnana comes Parabhakti (supreme devotion); only through Parabhakti is Paramatma attained.

– *Baba*



SRI RAMA NAVAMI CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

SRI RAMA NAVAMI WAS celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with deep devotion and sacredness on 7th April 2006 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His Divine Darshan and a nectarine Discourse, while the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented an excellent programme of devotional music on this occasion.



Thyagaraja Kritis on Veena being rendered by the students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Prasanthi Nilayam in Sai Kulwant Hall.

In the morning, the programme commenced after Bhagavan's arrival in Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.25 a.m. First of all, the students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music enthralled the audience by their excellent rendition of Thyagaraja Kritis (devotional compositions) on Veena. This was followed by recital of excerpts from Ramacharita Manas (the Ramayana written by Sant

Tulsidas) by the students of Hindustani classical stream of music of this college. After this, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented a delightful programme of devotional songs in praise of Lord Rama. The morning programme came to a close at 9.50 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

In the afternoon, two speakers addressed the gathering before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan. The first speaker, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, remarked that the epic Ramayana had universal appeal and it was a source of great inspiration for cultures and civilisations of the world. Rama and Ramayana had, in fact, become part and parcel of the life of the people, observed the learned speaker. The second speaker was Sri Ajit Popat, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan from the U.K. Sri Popat exhorted the devotees to bring Ramayana in their life by practising its teachings. This, he said, was sure to establish Rama Rajya (rule of Rama) in their heart and in their life.

After these speeches, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His Divine Message on this auspicious occasion. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given in this issue elsewhere.) After Bhagavan's Discourse, Prasadam was distributed to all and Arati was offered to Bhagavan. The programme of Sri Rama Navami came to a happy conclusion at 6.30 p.m.



EXPERIENCE THE SWEETNESS OF RAMA'S NAME

THIS MOTHERLAND OF BHARAT has given birth to many noble souls who attained great name and fame in all the continents of the world. Many sages and seers of Bharat have been sanctifying their time by propagating Rama Tattwa (principle of Rama) since ancient times. The Ramayana belongs to Treta Yuga. Though thousands of years have passed, yet the Ramayana is still being read with reverence in every village and every hamlet.

Do as you Say

People, young and old, chant the sacred name of Rama even now with great devotion. They may forget any other name, but not the Rama Nama (name). Be he a millionaire or a pauper, everyone takes refuge in the Divine Name of Rama in times of difficulty. In Bharat, it is hard to find anyone who does not contemplate upon or chant the name of Rama. Many sages in the past did penance and undertook several kinds of vows to spread the glory of Rama Nama in the world. However, Rama never wished or told anybody to chant His name or contemplate upon it. He, in fact, declared that all are the embodiments of divinity.

The foremost teaching of Rama was that one should follow Sathya.

Taking Sathya as the basis, one should sustain and promote Dharma (righteousness).



Good acts of Rama brought good results to Him. Thus, when we do good to others, there is no possibility for us to undergo sorrows and difficulties. If we still feel we are put to difficulties, the fault lies with us. God is not responsible for our sorrows and difficulties; it is the waywardness of our senses that is responsible for them. So, we should control our senses. If we are able to control our senses, everything else will come under our control. That is the essence of the teachings of Rama. The Ramayana is not merely the story of Rama. In fact, it is the story of every human being.



Dharma is not confined to any particular place or country; it is present in all. It is born out of Sathya (truth). In fact, Dharma cannot exist without Sathya. What is Dharma? *Dharayati iti Dharma* (that which sustains is Dharma). Some people wrongly limit Dharma to mere feeding of the poor or acts of charity. Dharma should flow from one's own heart. Then, it should be put into practice. Do as you say. That is man's foremost duty. There should be perfect harmony between one's words and actions. On the other hand, if one says one thing and does something contrary to it, it connotes Adharma (unrighteousness). Moreover, one should carefully analyse and weigh the pros and cons before saying something. *Manasyekam Vachasyekam, Karmanyekam Mahatmanam* (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones). You say that you are a human being. But, you are entitled to be called a human being only when your thoughts, words and deeds are in harmony. Rama achieved unity of thought, word and deed. In contrast, Ravana's thoughts, words and deeds were at variance with each other. *Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath, Karmanyanyath Duratmanam* (Those who lack harmony of thoughts, words and deeds are wicked).

Nurture and Develop your Innate Qualities

There has naturally been a conflict between Sathya (truth) and Asathya (untruth), Dharma (righteousness) and Adharma (unrighteousness). Rama scrupulously followed Sathya, whereas Ravana resorted to Asathya. There is no Dharma greater than adherence to Sathya. Hence, we should adhere to truth even in trivial matters. We

should never resort to untruth to escape from a difficult situation.

The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,

Is there a place in the cosmos where truth does not exist?

Visualise this pure and unsullied truth.

(Telugu Poem)

In fact, truth is the foundation of the entire creation. If for any reason this foundation is disturbed, the whole world will collapse. What is the reason for all the trials and tribulations of man today? It is because man has forgotten truth. He is facing humiliation and disrepute because he is indulging in injustice and falsehood. Hence, one should not resort to untruth under any circumstances. One should speak only truth. Sathya is a small term. But it connotes Sath (changeless divinity). Since we try to change this changeless truth, we undergo changes and distortions.

Dear Students!

You are all young. If you follow truth right from this young age, you will surely become an ideal to the entire country. What is truth? God's word is truth. Hence, when you speak with the feeling *Sarvam Bhagavad Preetyartham* (everything is to please God), then everything will become truth. Every thought and feeling emanating from man is a reflection of his inner truth. Unfortunately, it gets converted into falsehood by the improper use of the tongue. The tongue is one of the five senses. These senses are the cause of changes in us. They are responsible for the sin or merit that we earn.

The Panchabhutas (five elements) pervade the entire universe, right from the earth to sky. There is no



Hence, one should follow truth earnestly. Since people distort truth, they lose their purity. The main reason for the impurity of one's heart is one's tendency to distort truth. Hence, if one wishes to maintain purity and sacredness of one's heart, one has to speak truth. If you are wedded to truth, whatever you say will come right.

Some people complain, "Swami! Though we are treading the path of truth, untruth still troubles us. What could be the reason for our predicament?" The question can be answered by a simple example. While the pure and crystal clear Ganga river flows, some streams and rivulets formed by the rain water join it during its course, thereby polluting the river. However, one has to be careful not to allow any impurities to join the pure and unsullied truth of one's heart. It is because of the weakness of our senses that various impurities enter our heart and pollute it. These impurities are the six inner enemies of man. The purity of nectar can be destroyed even by an atom of impurity.

Once a music director composed a song:
I am aware, You are like the moon in the distant sky;
Yet my mind tries to grab You;
I don't know why ... (Telugu Song)

In fact, where is the moon? Not in the distant sky. Our mind itself is the moon. We are unable to gain control over the mind because of these six inner enemies coming in our way. Is it not a fact that even the bright light of the moon on a full moon night is not visible if the clouds come in its way? The moment the clouds move away, the moon is visible. Similarly, you have to do constant Namasmara in order to drive away the clouds of these six inner enemies.

Follow the Ideals set by Rama

Today we are celebrating Sri Rama Navami. On this sacred day,

we should resolve to follow the teachings of Rama. Sathya and Dharma are the two main teachings of Rama. Do not consider yourself as a mere human being. Develop full faith that you are none other than Rama! People often say, "Only my Atmarama knows it!" Thus, our Atma itself is the embodiment of Lord Rama! The Atma has no specific form. The same Atma that pervades the entire universe took a form and incarnated as Rama. Similarly, Dharma took the form of Lakshmana who constantly followed Rama. Lakshmana considered Rama as his very life-breath. Rama was everything for him.

During the exile of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita, once Lakshmana ventured into a particular part of forest. Soon he was beset with evil thoughts. As soon as he returned, he told Rama, "Oh! Rama! Why are we undergoing all these troubles? Why should the innocent mother Sita be put to these ordeals? Come! Let us go back to Ayodhya, this very moment." Sita was surprised at the sudden change in the attitude of Lakshmana. Since Rama knew everything, He called Lakshmana to His side smilingly and made him sit near Him. Immediately, Lakshmana realised his fault. With great agony, he enquired from Rama, "Dear brother! How come these evil thoughts entered my mind? Never before such a thing had happened to me." Rama then explained, "Dear brother! This is not your fault. This is the region of a demon. Hence, all evil thoughts entered your mind." *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are. As is your company, so are your thoughts. Hence, keep yourself away from bad company. Join the company of good and noble souls. Then, you will get good thoughts. As are your thoughts, so shall be the result. Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as are the feelings, so



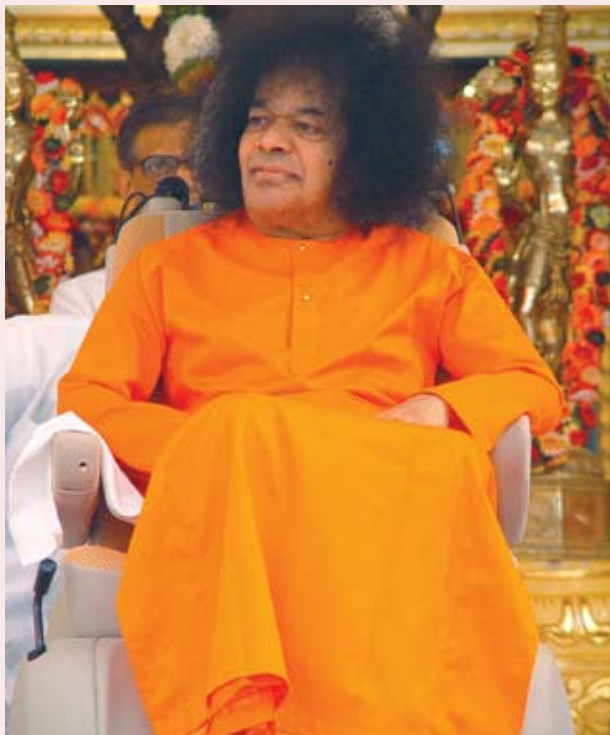
is the result).

When Kausalya was shedding tears after Rama left for the forest, Sumitra tried to comfort her, saying, “Dear sister! Why do you cry? Is it because Rama is going to the forest? No, no. You are mistaken that Rama would live in the forest, while we would enjoy royal comforts in Ayodhya. In fact, wherever Rama lives is Ayodhya and the rest is nothing but a forest. We should lead our life with equanimity, remaining equal-minded in happiness and sorrow. Happiness and sorrow come one after the other. We should not be affected by them. We should neither be elated by happiness nor depressed by sorrow. Can there be a human being in this world without happiness and sorrow? Rama is, in fact, omniscient and omnipotent. No harm can ever befall Him by wild animals or demons in the forest.”

Kausalya was also worried about Sita since she was accompanying Rama to the forest. Rama had tried to dissuade her from going to the forest, saying, “Sita! The forest is full of thorny bushes and wild animals. You will be put to a lot of difficulties in the forest.” Sita then reasoned with Rama, “Oh! Rama! You are the protector of the entire world. Can You not protect Your own wife from the wild animals? You are omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. I am sure that none of these wild animals can cause any harm to me when You are with me. I have no such fear.” Rama felt very happy to hear these words of Sita.

When Sita was abducted by Ravana, both Rama and Lakshmana became very much worried about her. Seething with anger over Ravana’s mean act, Lakshmana approached his elder brother Rama and

said, “Dear brother! Give me Your permission. I will reduce all these wicked demons to ashes.” Rama counselled patience and said, “Lakshmana! We don’t need to do any such thing. The demons will destroy themselves on their own. In fact, they will become victims of their own evil qualities.” Subsequently, Ravana was killed by Rama and His army of



Truth is the foundation of the entire creation. If for any reason this foundation is disturbed, the whole world will collapse. What is the reason for all the trials and tribulations of man today? It is because man has forgotten truth. He is facing humiliation and disrepute because he is indulging in injustice and falsehood. Hence, one should not resort to untruth under any circumstances. One should speak only truth.



Vanaras. Rama then explained to Lakshmana thus: “Lakshmana! People behave in a particular way and reap the consequences of their actions, depending upon their Prarabdha (destiny) and their qualities. We need not be too much concerned with that. As long as one is attached to worldly objects and thinks in terms of mine and thine, one will be afflicted by sorrow. Hence, one has to treat the worldly objects with the attitude: These are not mine; all these are the property of the Divine.”

All acts should be performed to please God. If one develops ego with thoughts of ‘I’ and ‘mine’, one is sure to perish. You say ‘this is mine’ and ‘that is mine’. In fact, what really belongs to you – the body, the mind, the intellect or the senses? You say ‘this is my body’, ‘this is my mind’, ‘this is my intellect’, etc. But, none of these belong to you truly. The body which you consider as belonging to you will leave you in a moment, even without your knowledge. Similarly, the mind roams about like a monkey. Is it possible to restrain this mad monkey? Do not say, ‘I am this or that’. Say, ‘I am I’. This is your correct description. The correct answer to the question ‘Who are you?’ is ‘I am I’. Rama did not criticise or harm anyone. Then, who will have hatred towards Him? Good acts of Rama brought good results to Him. Thus, when we do good to others, there is no possibility for us to undergo sorrows and difficulties. If we still feel we are put to difficulties, the fault lies with us. God is not responsible for our sorrows and difficulties; it is the waywardness of our senses that is responsible for them. So, we should control our senses. If we are able to control our senses, everything else will come under our control. That is the essence of the teachings of Rama. The Ramayana

is not merely the story of Rama. In fact, it is the story of every human being.

Sweetness of Rama Nama never Diminishes

We blame God for our problems and difficulties. But, God loves one and all equally. He has no hatred towards anyone. He is always cheerful and smiling. A smiling countenance is the natural quality of a divine being. Where there is a smile, there can be no hatred at all! People with such divine attributes do not get disturbed under any circumstances. Hence, be always smiling and cheerful. Never put on a ‘castor-oil face’. Some students are very much worried about examinations; they want them to be delayed or postponed. However, the sooner you write the examinations and pass them, the quicker will you move onto the higher class. Instead of examination worry, you should make hurry to go to the higher class. There is no worry in this hurry.

*Come! Oh devotees! Come!
Take the sweet of Rama Nama.
Do not buy and eat other sweets out of
ignorance,
They will spoil your health.
By mixing the wheat flour of the essence
of the Vedas
with the milk of Vedic declarations,
Adding the sugar of Subuddhi (virtues)
and the ghee of Nibaddhi (truth),
Removing the dirt of Abaddhamu
(falsehood),
Our ancient Rishis have prepared this
most delicious sweet of Rama Nama.*

(Telugu Song)

Your health will be spoiled by eating all kinds of sweets sold in the marketplace. Those sweets may be tasty, but are harmful for you. Instead, take the



sweet of Rama Nama that has been prepared by our great Rishis. It has a wonderful effect on your mind. It can never become stale or spoiled. The more you eat this sweet of Rama Nama, the more joy will you derive from it. It is sweeter than sugar and tastier than curd.

The Divine Name of Rama is full of sweetness and it remains sweet forever. There have been many incarnations of God on earth. But the Divine Name of Rama has remained eternal. Since ancient times, Rama Nama has remained as the Taraka Mantra (Mantra that liberates) for one and all. Right from children to elders, everyone can derive the bliss of chanting Rama Nama. Age is no obstacle in experiencing the sweetness of Rama Nama. There is immense sweetness in this name. We should never give up such a sweet, nectarine and blissful Rama Nama even for a second. Unfortunately, today people are neglecting the chanting of Rama Nama. It is their misfortune.

Lead an Ideal and Exemplary Life

When Mirabai was asked to leave the Krishna temple in the palace by the Maharana, she was full of anxiety, thinking, "How can I leave my dear Lord Krishna and go away!" But her unflinching faith in Krishna developed firm conviction in her, "Krishna Himself would come along with me." She prayed to Lord Krishna, "Oh Lord! I have obtained the precious pearl of Divine Name after a great effort. Please bless me that I do not lose this invaluable pearl." Chanting the name of Krishna incessantly, she reached Dwaraka. However, she found the doors of the temple closed. Unable to bear the agony of separation from her dear Lord Krishna any more, she banged her head against the doors of the temple. Lo and behold! The doors of the temple opened and Lord Krishna appeared before her. After having Darshan of her dear Lord, Mirabai

merged with Him.

We have to broaden our heart. This does not refer to the physical heart. If the physical heart is enlarged, it requires surgery by the doctors. Broadening one's heart implies the quality of large-heartedness. Some people sit here stretching their legs and occupying a lot of space. Instead, if people sit closely, some more devotees can be accommodated. We can help each other by caring and sharing.

Dear Students!

The summer vacation has started. From tomorrow onwards, you will be going home to spend your vacation with your parents. Spend your time happily with your parents. Contemplating upon the happy time you have spent here learning many sacred teachings, make your parents also happy. If you are happy, they will also be happy. Never make your parents unhappy by your conduct. Your parents occupy an important place in your life. It is your foremost duty to make them happy. It is not enough if you look after your own comfort and welfare. First and foremost, the parents are to be made happy. Life is not confined to Khana (food), Peena (drink), Sona (sleep) and Marna (death). We are not born to eat and roam about and enjoy comforts. We are born to serve our parents and make them happy. If you make your parents happy now, your children would make you happy in future. Lead an ideal and exemplary life. Only then will your life be sanctified and the education acquired by you in Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions will become meaningful. I wish that all of you should earn name and fame as the students of this great institution.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Rama Rama Rama Sita ...*")

– From Bhagavan's Sri Rama





CELEBRATIONS AT KODAIKANAL

Beautifully decorated Sai Sruthi on the occasion of Tamil New Year and Vishu.

TAMIL NEW YEAR AND VISHU were celebrated with all their traditional flavour in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Kodaikanal on 14th April 2006.

Sai Sruthi, the abode of Bhagavan in Kodaikanal, and its surroundings were decorated tastefully by the Seva Dal members of both Tamil Nadu and Kerala. If the Muthukkudas (ceremonial umbrellas) of various colours and tender coconut leaves made into different designs marked the traditional decorations of Kerala, decorations with flowers, mango leaves and garlands revealed the presence of Tamil Nadu. Thousands of devotees from both these States thronged Sai Sruthi to participate in the festivities and receive the blessings of Bhagavan on

this auspicious occasion. Traditional rendering of Nadaswaram reverberated the entire milieu since early morning, creating the festive atmosphere for celebrating the function.

Amidst the ambience of the Bhajans sung by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Bhagavan filled the hearts of devotees with joy by His Divine Darshan at 9 a.m. Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Prof. Mukundan, State President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala and Sri Ajit Popat from the U.K. made brief speeches.

In His Discourse on this sacred occasion, Bhagavan exhorted the devotees to reduce their worldly desires if they wanted to experience real happiness in life. Giving up worldly desires was true renunciation, He observed. Giving the





Narayana Seva being conducted at Kodaikanal as part of Tamil New Year and Vishu celebrations.

example of the world conquerer Alexander, Bhagavan remarked that ultimately he also had to go from the world empty-handed. Man should develop love and truth which were permanent instead of wasting his time and effort in accumulating ephemeral worldly possessions, said Bhagavan. This was followed by Narayana Seva and Vastradanam (distribution of clothes). After the devotees received Prasadam, the morning programme ended around 11 a.m.

The evening programme commenced with Bhajans by the students, followed by devotional music by the Sundaram Bhajan Group from Tamil Nadu. This was followed by devotional songs by Sri Kavalam Sreekumar and Sri Padma Kumar from Kerala.

In the end, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning filled the hearts of devotees with joy by their sweet and thrilling music in various styles providing a befitting finale to the celebrations.

RadioSai's e-journal 'Heart2Heart'

The official website of Radio Sai Global Harmony, www.radiosai.org, has been offering an internet journal "Heart2Heart" since August 2003. This is a free monthly journal carrying inspirational articles on Bhagavan Baba's Life, His Message and Work. In every issue, there are more than 100 pages of Sai literature, experiences of students and devotees, detailed accounts of events and festivals held in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Baba and lots of pictures. To view this journal, visit www.radiosai.org and click on the icon "Heart2Heart". You can also have access to all the previous issues of this e-journal (there are more than 40 of them) by clicking on the link "Previous Issues" present in every web page of Heart2Heart. In whichever part of the world you are, Sai pictures and articles are just one mouse click away! Take full advantage of this opportunity!

For any further enquiries, please write to h2h@radiosai.org

Radio Sai Global Harmony

INTERVIEW

LIVING WITH GOD IS TRUE EDUCATION

In an interesting interview, Sri Anil Kumar tells Dr. G. Venkataraman how Bhagavan imparts invaluable lessons to students when they get the unique opportunity of living with Him at Kodaikanal.

YOU ARE A VERY GOOD TEACHER and you also know a lot about how Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Supreme Teacher, moulds students. In particular, I want you to share with all of us your thrilling experiences of Kodaikanal. You have been to Kodaikanal with Bhagavan many times. It is indeed a very very extraordinary event, an event with a purpose.

Swami selects students whom He takes to Kodaikanal, and the selection is based on their performance here in the college, their conduct, their devotion, their excellence in sports and games, their talents in singing and dramatics as well. Besides, a few teachers are also selected by Bhagavan to accompany Him. Kodaikanal is an extremely beautiful place. The description of heaven or paradise in the scriptures of any religion would certainly match with the life at Kodaikanal in the divine proximity of Bhagavan.

At Kodaikanal, Swami gives us everything, right from a sleeping bag... One suitcase load of gifts of daily need and certain presents that we feel like preserving for the posterity. We take one suitcase and bring back with us three suitcases. Also, at times He takes boys to certain distant places on a picnic where He virtually plays with them.

It reminds us of Krishna and Gopalas except for so-called age difference of the physical bodies.

I think that's all action replay as you call it. He crosses all age barriers and He materialises certain things. One year, He materialised the white stone ring presented to Sri Ramachandra by His father Dasaratha. Then, He materialised another green stone ring presented to Him by His father-in-law Janaka.

I am told that these rings are very big.

Very big. I said, "Swami, it is almost of the size of my wrist. It is such a big ring!" Then Swami said, "Ramachandra's personality was such... Ajanubahu, very tall stature."

And He also materialised Mangal Sutra (sacred thread worn by married woman) worn by Sita. I have also seen Swami materialising the necklace of Ravana with 365 Siva Lingas, three large Siva Lingas at the centre, down below, where you have the pendant, one yellow, one green, one blue and all the other 362 Lingas made of gold.

What happens to these things afterwards?

These things go back to 'Sai stores'. He also materialised the golden deer that had drawn the attention of Mother Sita.

You are allowed to touch these things?

Yes, we are allowed to touch these things. I have also seen on another occasion, Swami materialised an arch with diamonds in three to four rows!

How big was the arch? How many centimetres?



I can say, it was not less than 15 centimetres. At the centre of the arch, there was a gold chain from which a swan was hanging, with eyes very clear, beak very clear, stomach very transparent and translucent. Then everybody started looking at it. Swami came and said, "Hey look, look deep, look deep." And when I started looking, there in the stomach of the swan we saw Bhagavan Baba in reclining posture, like Sesha Sai (Lord reclining on the thousand-hooded snake). He also materialised Chudamani, the jewel that Sita gave to Hanuman as a mark of identification to establish his credibility.

I see! Fantastic! Can you recall some really moving or heartwarming incidents, because there must be quite a few of these.

About seven years ago, there was one student from the State of Kerala. Swami was showing special concern for him. Even I was feeling a little jealous. He materialised a ring for him, a chain for him, a watch for him as if the whole trip was meant for that boy. After a few days, He materialised a pair of earrings for that boy.

Earrings?

Yes, He materialised earrings for the boy! I didn't understand. After a few days, He materialised another set of earrings for the same boy. I thought to myself, "Swami, I have three daughters, You can give me those earrings. Why to that boy, after all an unmarried fellow!"

Then, after a week, Swami in His Discourse said, "Some people started questioning why Swami was showing special concern for that boy. Some people were also doubting why I gave earrings to that boy. They do not know.

That boy lost his mother long ago. He has two sisters. His mother's wish was to present

gold earrings to her daughters. Before that wish materialised, she died. I am his mother, I am their mother also. If not Me, who else will care for them? So, I materialised these earrings for the boy. You don't understand what I do. Whatever I do, whatever I say has got a deeper significance and inner meaning. The boy's father, out of frustration, wanted to commit suicide. I made him come here and took a promise from him that he would not make an attempt to die. And I am taking care of the family. It is only after that day, the boy started smiling."

That really touched my heart. Swami! You are the mother of mothers, dearer and nearer than the physical mother. You care for them. I am sure that none of us experiences that depth, that intensity, that magnitude of love which we receive from Bhagavan.

Can you recall any other memorable incidents that you witnessed at Kodaikanal?

There at Kodaikanal, one day Swami was distributing peppermints and chocobars and various other things. Suddenly, He said, "There is one fellow who is not eating and he is dumping them all in his bag. Come on boys, search everybody's bag." It was something like income tax search, income tax raid! Then I said softly, "Bhagavan, why all this trouble? Yes! I'm not eating. I am keeping them in the bag." Bhagavan said, "Why do you do that?" "Swami! I have four children, they expect something from me. Whatever You give is most valuable for us. When I take back these most precious things, the children will jump in joy." Swami said, "Oh, is it so?" Then He told everybody there, "Hereafter, you give Anil Kumar five items, four for his children and one for him."

Then He said to me, "Just as you feel happy when your children eat, I feel happy when



you eat here.” How can I forget that incident! I don’t remember anybody loves me more than Bhagavan Baba. This is the feeling of every devotee. It is the experience of millions of devotees all over the world.

Now, what does Swami expect in return for all this? This is a sort of typical human question. I know God does not expect anything in return. But let us hear what you have to say.

He only wants us to learn from Him. Just as He loves us, we need to love our fellowmen, family and God, because God is love and love is God. Live in love. That is the message He wants to convey.

I am told that one year on Easwaramma Day, Swami personally distributed blankets to the poor. That seems to be a very moving incident. So, why don’t you tell us something about it?

The blankets were distributed to the poor people who had assembled in “Sai Sruthi” Mandir (Swami’s residence at Kodaikanal.) Suddenly, Swami said, “Let us go out.” He got into His car and the convoy started moving. He stopped here and there, noticing poor people, got down and started personally distributing the blankets. It was because some of them were disabled and could not come to receive the blankets. He said, “You should take every opportunity to serve the poor and the needy.” This is an example that everybody should learn from Bhagavan. You should not expect them to come to you; you should go to the Daridra Narayana (God in the form of poor people) and serve them with love. Not only that. On our way to Kodaikanal, sometimes He suddenly stops the car. He finds a beggar going over there. He finds a village woman carrying a head load of firewood. He stops and gives them money. They never see

Swami and they never know that it is Sai Baba who gave them the money. He simply gives money like that. When I mentioned this to Him, He said, “I do not want recognition. I don’t want publicity. I cannot see these poor people suffering like that.”

You will be thrilled if I tell you another incident. Bhagavan bought candy puffs (Peechu Mittayi). He bought about twenty-five of them and His car was full of these. He started distributing to all V.I.P.s. They were rather surprised. Then Bhagavan told them, “You know why I bought them? Here at Kodaikanal, there are some aged people. They cannot move about. Their children carry on their livelihood by selling these candy puffs. So, when I buy them, they go back home with the money, give it to their parents and in this way they are taken care of.”

From that day everybody started buying candy puffs, because Swami said you should buy! For twenty-five candy puffs, after all we may have to pay ten or twenty rupees. But Swami gave him five hundred rupees. I said, “Swami, You have given much more than the actual price.” Then He said, “It is not the price of the candy. It is the love of Bhagavan towards them.” I was deeply touched by this incident.

He calls the boys and tells them, “There are some Tibetan women, selling woollen clothes. They are poor people. They carry on their livelihood because of these sales only. Go to them and buy whatever you require. They will be happy that they have got good business.” One day, Swami bought a straw hat and wore it. Then everybody bought straw hats. In this way, He helped the poor man who was not having good business. They are all poor people. They all wait for



Bhagavan, because the goddess of wealth follows Him necessarily.

One day, He called two servant maids and gave them silk Saris. I said, "Swami, You are giving such costly silk Saris to servant maids!" Swami looked at me and said, "When I give, why do you cry like that? Are you jealous?" Then Swami said, "When they go and attend marriages and when they go to their relations, they can wear these Saris. It will give them a lot of joy". That is Sai's love. It is uniform for everyone.

Yes, He is always trying to make everybody happy. And the message is that we should try to do the same. It is said, "Living with God is true education." So, can you tell me what are the lessons He subtly imparts to the students?

He watches every student how he conducts himself. And if there is any mistake, He will at once point out. Starting from dining manners, He teaches how one should conduct oneself in day-to-day life. When there are so many guests, how to serve? That also He teaches them very carefully. And how to receive guests and extend hospitality, how to talk to elders, how to dress? All these minute things Bhagavan teaches them. These days, even parents have no time to observe their children and teach them these basic things. They are busy in their own way. But Bhagavan being more than a parent cares for them. The result is, the parents will be surprised to see a great transformation in their child when he returns home. That is Bhagavan's way of bringing about transformation.

Do you feel it is rather strange that God has to do even these small things?

God comes for both. For reformation and also for transformation; reformation from

the worldly point of view and transformation from inside.

You say boys are immensely talented. How does Swami help them to develop their talents further at Kodaikanal?

Swami makes them sing devotional songs. They will be asked to play on musical instruments. Boys who are gifted with the talent of public speaking will be asked to address the devotees. And sometimes we have Kavi Sammelan (poets meet) also. Sathya Sai University is unique in the sense that we have students from all over India and a few from overseas also. Each student is talented. Some of them can write poems and compositions in their own language. They have altogether some fifteen languages. Swami organises the Kavi Sammelan, the assembly of poets. Swami will ask the boys to sing a song or recite a poem in his own native language. Swami explains, interprets and translates them. He also corrects them wherever they go wrong.

Oh! That is amazing. Now please tell us something about picnics. I heard Swami takes boys for picnics at Kodaikanal.

Swami takes boys to the nearby mountain area for a picnic with food packets. They all sit in the form of a circle. Swami talks to them in a very informal way. There small slips are picked up. And on the slips are written various items. "You tell a story, you sing a song, you tell a joke" like that. The number of slips will be equal to the number of boys and the elders who are present there. And these slips are picked up by each and every one. And everyone has to necessarily do what is written there.

Once it so happened, Prof. Sampath was in the group. He was a scientist par excellence. He was very well known in national and international circles. He was a man of wit and



humour. When he picked up the slip, it was written – you sing a song. He said, “Swami, should I sing a song? Can I be exempted?”

Swami said, smilingly: “I cannot help it. That is what your slip says.” He was not used to singing at all. He started singing in his hoarse voice. ...And everybody including Swami had a hearty laugh.

If you have to summarise these extraordinary experiences that Bhagavan gives to students at Kodaikanal, how do you describe them?

There at Kodaikanal you have a number of opportunities to put any number of questions to Bhagavan covering all topics. Once I started singing some songs. Swami at once filled the gaps. I asked Swami, “How You know these songs?” Swami said, “I know before the composer starts writing.”

Oh! Very subtly He says that He is the source of everything. How are the boys changed or influenced by all these experiences?

When they go out with Bhagavan, they see thousands of devotees waiting. It is an opportunity for the boys to know how lucky they are. “People wait right from the early hours in the cold just for a glimpse of Bhagavan. ...And Bhagavan is moving with us; how lucky we are! Swami is spending time with us. We are really fortunate.” This is the first experience of the boys.

If Swami watches a boy relishing a particular

item, He sees to it that the boy is served that item extra. When you see all this, you will understand how much He cares for students. The concern and love of Swami really touches the heart. The students might not have experienced that type of love till then. This brings about transformation in them. They start thinking, “What shall I do in return for all that He has done for me, for all the time He has spent on me, for all the love that I have received from Him?” But Swami says, “I do not want anything from you. I want you to get a good name for yourself, for your parents and for the institution in which you have studied. That is the only way of expressing gratitude to Me.” “Do Good, Be Good, See Good” is the quintessence of Sai Message.

It is incredible! We do not know whether Lord Ramachandra ever did such a thing. Probably the Vanaras had the thrill of being in His proximity and certainly we know extraordinarily wonderful time the Gopalas had with Lord Krishna. We do not need to read scriptures to understand all that. If you go to Kodaikanal with Bhagavan or just hear about it, it is enough. It is so wonderful. It is said in our tradition that hearing about the Lord itself brings one redemption. I hope that all our listeners would feel thrilled.

Courtesy : Radio Sai Global Harmony

At a distance from the bazaar, one hears only a loud indistinct noise. But, as one approaches it and walks into it, one can clearly distinguish the separate bargainings. So, too, until the reality of Paramatma is known, you are overpowered and confused by the uproar of the world. But once you enter deep into the realm of spiritual endeavour, everything becomes clear and the knowledge of the reality awakens within you. Until then, you will be caught up in the meaningless noise of argumentation, disputation and exhibitionist flamboyance.

— Baba

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

A medical camp was held in the city of Kozarac on 18th February 2006. About 200 patients were seen at the camp free of charge. Consultations were provided for internal medicine, neurology, paediatrics, dentistry, ophthalmology, gynaecology and psychiatry. Basic laboratory tests were also provided. Participants in the camp included volunteers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Germany. A local television station interviewed the organisers who provided information on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His work.

In addition to the medical camp, 466 packages of school stationery were distributed along with lunch bags, washing detergent, soaps and clothes at the same site.

A concurrent veterinary camp was conducted where 49 animals were examined.

CANADA

The Sathya Sai Centre of Saskatoon, Canada has been involved in teaching Sathya Sai Education in Human Values to elementary school children through the board curriculum since 2001. Children of grades 1-4 are taught Sathya Sai values of love, truth, right conduct, peace and non-violence through examples. Theatrical productions highlight Bhagavan's teachings. This has led the Superintendent of Schools in Saskatoon to acknowledge the importance of SSEHV in today's education. In addition, an annual Christmas gifting for students and staff of a school for special-care children is undertaken by the Sai Centre. In Toronto, hot meal and about 600 sandwiches were served

lovingly to homeless individuals. During the harsh Canadian winters, young adults hold an annual drive for blankets and warm clothing and deliver to the homeless.

CHINA

Sri Sathya Sai Educare was enthusiastically appreciated by senior educationists in China when they met the members of the Sai



Members of Sai Education Committee with the participants in the meeting in Nanjing, China organised by the United Nations as part of its Human Values-based Water Education in Asia and the Pacific region.

Education Committee of the newly formed Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation in the city of Nanjing on 30th and 31st March 2006. The meeting was organised by the United Nations as part of its Human Values-based Water Education Programme in Asia and the Pacific region. In addition to the People's Republic of China, the programme is being introduced in countries of the Mekong Region (Laos PDR and Cambodia) and in South Asia.

The UN programme has adopted Sai Educare principles to promote a



new ethic of caring and sharing and responsible water-use behaviour among primary and secondary level students in Chinese schools. Water education is a strategic entry point for mainstreaming Sai Educare principles in formal education in China. The Nanjing Education Bureau is spearheading this programme. Members of the Sai Education Committee who spoke at the meeting were: Dr. Art-ong Jumsai from Thailand, Dr. Pal Dhall from Australia and Dr. Ronne Marantz from the USA. The meeting decided to organise a Training Workshop in Nanjing in May 2006 to sensitise Chinese teachers, curriculum development specialists and teacher trainers on Sai Educare principles, in preparation for introducing Human Values-based Water Education in Chinese schools.

The Human Values-based Water Education Programme of UN-HABITAT has been operational in 14 African countries for the past three years. The programme focuses on mainstreaming Sai Educare principles in the national curriculum, training of trainers and demonstration through pilot schools. The African Institute of Sathya Sai Education, based in Zambia, is assisting in the implementation of the programme in African countries.

DUBAI

In the Middle Eastern kingdom of Dubai, the Al Noor Centre hosts an Annual Fun Fair which attracts thousands of visitors who view the handicrafts of children with special needs. At this fair, the Sathya Sai Organisation had a prominent booth that was one of the most visited sites at the fair. The booth was adorned by a banner "Serve and Inspire" and staffed by Sai Youth volunteers with T-shirts sporting the slogan "Love All, Serve All". Coffee mugs were also available at the booth with Bhagavan's message "If you cannot oblige, speak obligingly."



Al Noor Centre of Sathya Sai Organisation organised Annual Fun Fair to help the children of special needs in Dubai.

In a dual effort to help a cottage industry in Puttaparthi and, at the same time, to bring environmental awareness, a drive to encourage the use of paper bags was made. These bags were manufactured in Puttaparthi from used newspapers and distributed in Dubai. The Sai booth captured the attention of local radio and news media who interviewed the booth staff.

EL SALVADOR

San Salvador is the capital city of El Salvador abutting the North Pacific Ocean between Honduras and Guatemala. Since 1997, a small free nursing home for physically challenged individuals has been run by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation. On 1st April 2006, a permanent Sai Medical Clinic was inaugurated at this site. The clinic will provide free medical care to patients on an ongoing basis while continuing to care for physically challenged individuals. A fully-equipped pharmacy housed in the clinic will provide free medications as needed.

INDONESIA

Sai devotees from Medan, Indonesia organised food distribution to more than 645 families in Jaring Island in North Sumatra.



Undaunted by the arduous journey, Sai Youth reach out to the families in distress in Jaring Island in North Sumatra.

This drive was in response to national news regarding the plight of local fishermen with depleted catch. Devotees lovingly transported goods and personnel through large distances, and the difficulties faced during transportation to the island did not dampen their spirits. The long journey by land and sea took as long as two and a half hours. Each family received five kilograms of rice, five packs of instant noodle, one pack of soap and a towel. Families were moved to tears and many expressed their love and appreciation for the Sathya Sai Organisation.

MALAYSIA

The holy festival of Thaipusam is widely regarded as an important festival in Malaysia, and it draws large crowds. This year, it fell on 10th and 11th February 2006. Hordes of devotees climb the 272 steps to reach the temple of Batu Caves in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. In this setting, the Sathya Sai Organisation organised the voluntary donation of blood while conducting



Blood donation drive organised by the Sai Organisation of Malaysia collected over 2,500 units of blood from volunteers of all faiths.

33 hours of continuous devotional singing on a stage where a large picture of Bhagavan Baba was prominently displayed. Devotees worked continuously during the period of 33 hours. About 80 beds were laid out for donors and a target of 2,006 units of blood was set. Similar blood donation camps were held in Perak, Penang and Johore during the same period. Several volunteers from different faiths joined the blood donation effort. The event was covered live by satellite radio. Remarkably, the total amount of blood collected was in excess of 2,500 units.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Sathya Sai Baba Organisation is one of the single largest blood donor groups in South Africa, contributing 5-10% of the total blood donations. There are about 60 blood donation centres around the country which are regularly hosting clinics. Generally, about 10,000 units are collected annually due to the direct efforts of the Sathya Sai Organisation. As a result of this, the South African National Blood Service has remarked, "(We) wish to acknowledge the dedication of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation and the commitment of its devotees who so willingly serve



the community with this vital need of providing safe blood.”

U. S. A.

On 8th April 2006, Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, addressed a gathering of Sai devotees, comprising mostly SSE children, parents and members of Sai Baba centres of greater Seattle in Bellevue, Washington located on the beautiful pacific coast of USA. The programme began with devotional songs by SSEHV children.

Sri Giri discussed the importance of Management and Education, particularly management in a “knowledge society”, highlighting the foresight of Bhagavan in terms of managers needing to be aware of the relations between nations and cultures, a fact that is becoming more and more important as globalisation moves forward. Sri Giri then gave the efficient delivery of disaster relief and post-disaster support by the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation during the Tsunami relief and Bhuj earthquake in India as examples of responsible ways of handling service needs. He also stressed that self-confidence and self-awareness led to self-sacrifice and ultimately to self-realisation. He shared Bhagavan’s message on the importance of the need for SSE teachers to treat the SSE students as their own children and be ultimately responsible for their performance. After a brief question-answer session, the programme concluded with Bhajans and Arati.

– Prasanthi Council

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Nellore district conducted a regional conference at Nellore on 12th March 2006 to

discuss the recommendations of the 8th World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Organisations. 200 delegates from Anantapur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Prakasam, Chittoor and Nellore districts participated and decided to work in the direction of implementing these 9 recommendations.

Visakhapatnam district gave 10 steel almirahs to the students of a school for the visually challenged in Lakshmipuram village on 12th March 2006. Each almirah contained four portions so as to enable 40 students to keep their belongings.

Anantapur district Sai Organisation started five new Bhajan Mandalis in the villages named Mamillakuntapalli, Veldurthi, Amudalakuntapalli, Salakamcheruvu and Prasannayapeta in the month of March 2006. This district distributed school uniforms worth Rs. 25,000 to 174 students in the Government School for the visually challenged at Hindupur on 7th March 2006.

The Mahila Vibhag (women’s wing) of West Godavari district visited the school for the speech and hearing impaired at Eluru on 19th March 2006 and gave the inmates 12 chairs and 12 cots for their daily use.

The newly-built Sri Satya Sai Mandiram in Chinamerangi village, Vijayanagaram district was inaugurated on 5th March 2006. Narayana Seva was carried out for nearly 1,000 people on this occasion. This district came to the rescue of fire victims of Krishnarayudupeta village by giving to each of 248 households, 10 kg rice, vessels and two pairs of clothes on 19th March 2006.

The Kurnool district organisation successfully dug a much-needed borewell at the burial ground, spending more than Rs. 25,000. This district carried



out Narayana Seva for 7,864 pilgrims going to Srisailam at S.R.B.C colony near Atmakur from 22nd March to 27th March 2006.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: The inhabitants of flood-ravaged Kuruwa area felt greatly relieved when the Guwahati Samithi in collaboration with Kuruwa Unnayan Samithi organised a free medical camp on 26th March 2006 in the premises of Kuruwa Higher Secondary School. Deprived as they were of basic medical facilities, the villagers felt happy when the doctors and the Seva Dal volunteers arrived in the village with medicines.

The local school became the hub of activities when it temporarily housed the departments

of medicines, gynaecology, ophthalmology, ENT, dentistry, paediatrics, dermatology and surgery with a view to provide services to the rural community. Attended by 37 doctors with the active support of 87 Seva Dal workers, over 1123 beneficiaries got the treatment and free medicines. Along with the camp, arrangements were made for examination of blood pressure and also the blood groupings. The camp ended with smiles of the patients as well as the doctors and Seva Dal volunteers. Love added to the occasion was the participation of village elders and more particularly the youth of the area. In a loving gesture, the medicine companies and some doctors of Guwahati voluntarily provided the medicines.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SANATHANA SARATHI Exhibition on “Journey with Sai”

An exhibition of photographs and other audio-visual materials is proposed to be organised at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of golden jubilee celebrations of “Sanathana Sarathi” around Sivarathri 2007, highlighting the visits of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to various places. It will be based on the reports in “Sanathana Sarathi” and other relevant records. Copies of publications / records giving details of these visits as also the relevant photographs, CDs, video films, documentaries, etc., are required by us for this purpose. All the material received will be gratefully acknowledged and safely returned, if required.

It is therefore appealed that those devotees / Sai Organisations who possess such materials may kindly send them to: The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur (A.P).
Email: editor@sssbpt.org

Convener
Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust

Compassion on Living Beings

ONCE AN ANIMAL FELL INTO A PIT of mud. When it put its one foot out of the pit in its effort to come out, the other foot slipped deeper into it. The helpless



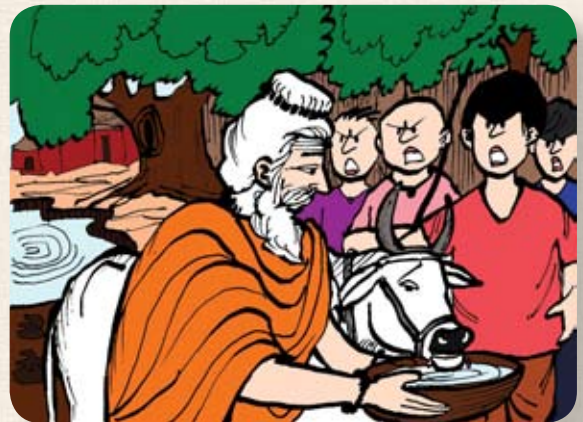
Mischievous youngsters derived fun from the helplessness and suffering of the unfortunate animal!

animal was thus put to a lot of suffering. Two days passed in this manner. None of the passersby who passed that way tried to bring an end to its suffering. Some feared that if they tried to pull the animal out, they might themselves slip into the mud pit. So, they went without doing anything. For some mischievous youngsters who stood there, it was a great fun to watch the animal as it tried to come out and slipped again into the mud pit.

Meanwhile, a Sadhu (holy man) passed that way. He was very much distressed to see the pitiable condition of the animal. Without thinking a bit, he immediately jumped into the mud pit. At this, the onlookers remarked with derision, "When so many strong men are here who could not venture

to bring the animal out of the pit, how can this lean and thin renunciant perform this arduous task!"

The holy man however paid scant attention to the remarks of the onlookers. With the name of God on his lips, he prayed to God for help and strength. Invoking thus the grace of God, he slowly and steadily brought the animal out, half by pulling and half by carrying it on his shoulders. He made it drink some water after this. The mischievous youngsters remarked derisively, "What an act of Seva (service)! But for this, we could have had fun for some more time." The holy man said to them, "Dear ones! What I have done is not Seva. Neither is it an act of benevolence. I have saved this animal to relieve myself of the agony that I underwent on



"I have saved this animal to relieve myself of the agony that I underwent on seeing its suffering", said the holy man to the youngsters.

seeing its suffering. I performed this task only to get over my own distress. Now I am relieved of my agony." Saying this, the holy man went his way.



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