



YAJNAS PERFORMED AT BRINDAVAN FROM 16TH MAY 2005 TO 18TH MAY 2005





EARN GOD'S GRACE BY SERVING YOUR PARENTS

When man emerges from the womb of his mother, one does not find any garland around his neck. There are no jewels made of pearls nor are there glittering gold ornaments. There are no chains studded with precious stones like emeralds and diamonds. But there is one garland around his neck. Brahma strings together the consequences of his past deeds into a heavy garland and puts it around his neck at the time of his birth.

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

IN THIS WORLD, THE LOVE OF one's mother is much more powerful and noble than that of all the relatives and friends. The mother is, therefore, held in high esteem all over the world. That is why everybody calls his country as motherland. Bharat is our motherland. The sacredness of the mother's heart and the power of her blessings are unparalleled. But, unfortunately, people today are not able to understand properly the sacredness of mother's love, not only in our country but in all the countries of the world.

Never Forget the Love of your Mother

In this sacred land of ours, there have been many great centres of spiritual power since ancient times. Great and holy men like Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Vivekananda could acquire spiritual powers only because they received the blessings of their mothers. They also earned the grace of Mother Kali whom they worshipped as the form of God. Vivekananda earned great name and fame by the grace of Mother Kali. In fact, the people of West Bengal achieved greatness by worshipping God in the form of Devi (mother goddess).

It is a grave mistake to forget the mother who is endowed with great divine powers. In our scriptures also, the mother has been given the highest place. It has been said,



One may or may not respect others, but one must respect one's mother. In fact, one should dedicate one's entire life to win the love of one's mother. Mother's love is always selfless. We should learn to cultivate such love. Wherever you go, whomsoever you meet, you can find that people become rich and prosperous only with the blessings and love of their mother. If you cannot win the love of your mother, how can you hope to win the grace of God? Hence, first and foremost you should strive to win the love of your mother.



Matru Devo Bhava (revere your mother as God); *Pitru Devo Bhava* (revere your father as God); *Acharya Devo Bhava* (revere your teacher as God); *Atithi*



Devo Bhava (revere your guest as God). Thus, the mother has been given the first place in that order. It is only when we uphold the honour and dignity of the mother that we will be entitled to be called true sons. The life of a person who is unable to earn the love of his mother is a mere waste. Hence, we should do our best to win the love of our

mother can become the leaders of their country. We may or may not worship other deities, but we should certainly worship our mother as God. We should never forget the love of our mother. The love of mother is supreme. It is only by the love of their mother that divine feelings develop in children. Where there is a virtuous mother, there will surely be peace and prosperity. It is foolish to crave for the love of other people, ignoring the love of one's own mother. One should, therefore, revere one's mother and try to experience her love.

Mother is your Living God

The mother of Ramakrishna Paramahansa was noble and virtuous. She belonged to a poor family, and had to face great hardships in life. But she earned the grace of God by her sterling virtues and firm faith in God. It is only when one respects one's mother and wins her love that one can be called a human being in the real sense. There is no God



There is no need for you to read voluminous books. Even a small book is good enough if it can help you to contemplate on God. Do not be satisfied with acquiring mere bookish knowledge. Such knowledge is only superficial knowledge. What you need really is the knowledge of the Self. Strive to acquire that knowledge. It manifests from within. It cannot be acquired from outside.



mother. No one can describe the love of a mother in words. It is only by the strength of his mother's will that a son would come up well in life. Hence, we should respect and love our mother. She must be given the pride of place in our life. Only such people who earn the love of their

greater than one's mother in this world. Unfortunately, today people forget this sacred truth and go here and there in search of God. Where is the need to search for God when you have living divinity right in front of you in the form of your mother? Many people undertake



spiritual practices like penance, pilgrimage to holy places, worship and other rituals in order to see God. But what is the use? You cannot win the grace of God without first winning the love of your mother. The love of the mother flows as an undercurrent in every human being. Read the life story of any great person; you will come to know that they could reach such great heights in life only because of their mother's love. When one leads one's life in accordance with one's mother's noble ideals, one will be relieved of all kinds of suffering. One may or may not respect others, but one must respect one's mother. In fact, one should dedicate one's entire life to win the love of one's mother. Mother's love is always selfless. We should learn to cultivate such love. Wherever you go, whomsoever you meet, you can find that people become rich and prosperous only with the blessings and love of their mother. If you cannot win the love of your mother, how can you hope to win the grace of God? Hence, first and foremost you should strive to win the love of your mother. The heart of the mother is very tender. Therefore, do not do anything which will hurt the feelings of your mother.

One of the main teachings of the culture of Bharat is: revere your mother and father as God. A person who is able to win the love of his mother can win everything else. Ramakrishna Paramahansa earned a great name because he could win the love of his mother. Not only that, he could win the grace of Mother Kali and attain her divine vision. There were many people in Bengal who were the masters of great wealth, high education and great scholarship. But they could not

achieve anything worthwhile in life due to their lack of faith and devotion. It was only Ramakrishna Paramahansa who could lead an ideal life by loving his mother and obeying her commands. He taught others that there was nothing greater and nobler in this world than mother's love. The mother is God, verily. It is, therefore, not good and proper to hurt the feelings of the mother who is the embodiment of love. It is only when we develop love towards our mother will our life become happy and prosperous. Hence, first and foremost, we should strive to win the love of our mother. Whatever the mother does is for our own good. We must develop such firm faith. You take the life story of any great person in this world; he owes his greatness to his mother.

Modern students do not try to win their mothers' love. The mother undergoes great ordeals; she is prepared to undertake even hard labour to earn a few rupees to bring up her children and educate them somehow. What a great sacrilege will it be to forget the love of such a noble mother! Only a person who wins the love of his mother can earn God's love. We are not born from the earth or the sky; we are born from the womb of our mother. It is possible that at times differences may arise between a mother and her son. But no mother would hate her son on that account; she would not forsake him. There may be sons who hate their mothers, but there are no mothers who hate their sons. The mother will always aspire for the welfare of her son. Even if they go to a court of law in a matter of dispute, the mother will always say, "He is my son and I am his mother." They cannot refer to each other in any other manner. The



mother will always strive for the safety, health and welfare of her children. People today are facing great difficulties because they are ignoring the love of their mother. If you are able to win the love of your mother, you can win the love of all other people. The love of your mother will always be with you, constantly guarding and guiding you in all your endeavours. Unfortunately, people today do not realise this truth. They think, "It is enough to provide a few morsels of food to that old lady." They are so narrow-minded and selfish! It is a great mistake to think that their responsibility will end by providing some food to their mothers. The mother should always be held in high esteem and served with love and devotion. She should be made to feel happy and contented.

Pundarika was a great devotee of Lord Panduranga. He held the view that service to the parents was of paramount importance. One day, he was serving his parents by massaging their feet. In order to test his love towards his parents, Lord Panduranga appeared before him. But Pundarika did not want to be distracted from his attention and continued to serve his parents. Then, Lord Panduranga asked him, "My dear son! I have come to give you My Darshan; but you are not looking at Me. Whom are you serving with such single-minded devotion?" Pundarika replied that he was serving his parents. Then, Lord Panduranga queried, "Is not God greater than parents? Won't you have My Darshan at least for one second?" But Pundarika was not distracted. He replied, "My parents are living divinities for me. I cannot have Your Darshan unless I put my parents to sleep. If You wish to give me Your Darshan,


When you chant the Divine Name, you will always have good thoughts. Unfortunately, people today totally forget chanting of the Divine Name. People think that they are highly educated and have high degrees, but their degrees will not enable them to tread the right path. Education that does not develop self-enquiry is no education at all.


You stand there on the brick till then." So saying, he pushed a brick towards Lord Panduranga. The Lord then commended his love and devotion towards his parents and declared, "The world will always remain safe and prosperous if all people cultivate such love and devotion towards their parents. May such noble sons like you proliferate in this world!" Great and noble ideas of sacrifice and detachment continued to develop in Pundarika. He spent his time happily serving his parents and winning their love.

Mothers in Ancient Times Fostered Values in their Children

There were many ideal mothers in Bharat in ancient days. They contemplated on God and chanted the Divine Name incessantly. They chanted Mantras like "Om Namo Narayanaya" before eating their food. They would never eat food without chanting the Divine Name. They inculcated such noble habits in their children also. Thus, mothers in ancient times were



ideal. They used to inculcate in their children moral values and put them on the right path. There are few such ideal mothers in the world today. Mothers these days always think, "My son should get good marks and rank in the examination. He should acquire a high degree and earn lakhs of rupees. He should rise to a high position in life." A large majority of modern mothers think in this manner. Very few of them teach their children, "My dear! Pray to God daily. Never forget God." That is the reason why the country of Bharat is facing innumerable difficulties. Our ancients always used to pray daily. They chanted, Rama! Krishna! Govinda! They chanted the Divine Name incessantly. But things have changed. Now, there is no such contemplation on the Divine Name. On the other hand, worldly desires have increased enormously. The culture of Bharat exhorts the people to adhere to the principle of Sathyam Vada (speak truth) and Dharmam Chara (practise righteousness). Unfortunately, today people act contrary to such noble ideals. They are distorting those ideals as Sathyam Vadha (kill truth) and Dharmam Chera (imprison righteousness).

Once Easwaramma came to Me and requested, "Swami! Many poor mothers have come here along with their children. They have no food to eat. Kindly bless them." Then I rendered them proper help and thus fulfilled Easwaramma's wish. On another day, she came to Me and expressed her anguish thus: "Swami! Small children of five years' age are daily walking to Bukkapatnam and back to attend school. How can they study after walking such a long distance daily?"

Then, I called their parents and advised them, "These tiny tots can learn more from their mothers than from their teachers in a school. Instead of sending these small children to such a long distance for education, you first teach them what little you know. You teach them at least two or three letters of the alphabet which you know." Later, I established a school in Puttaparthi and fulfilled the wish of Easwaramma.

Though the mothers of those days were not well educated, they never gave up praying to God. Love God. There is no use wasting your time in worldly matters. Never try to imitate others. Try to develop faith in the truth that manifests from your own heart. It is not good to hate other castes and religions. Develop faith in your own religion and follow it diligently.

Once when I was a student, some political leaders approached Me and requested, "Raju! We understand that You write good poetry. We have arranged a meeting where a large number of people are expected to come. We request You to please write a good song that can inspire the people." Those were the days of the Second World War. Adolf Hitler was marching forward to conquer various countries in Europe. He was trying to invade Russia. India was then under the control of the Britishers. Taking the situation into account, I wrote a small playlet. In that playlet, I kept a rubber doll in a cradle and sang the following song, rocking the cradle gently:

Do not cry, my child, do not cry.

*If you cry, you will not be called
a valiant son of Bharat.*

Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.



*Did you get scared because the terrible
Hitler has invaded the invincible Russia?
Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.
Do not cry, my child, do not cry.
For the Red Army is marching under
Stalin.*

*They will put an end to Hitler.
Then what else is the reason for your
crying?
Is it because the countrymen lack unity?
All the countrymen shall unite and fight to
win freedom;
Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.*

(Telugu Song)

The mothers of those days used to sing such inspiring patriotic songs and teach their children good things. They tried to mould their character to inculcate in them love for their country. There was no scope at all for untruth in their talk. By their truthful words, they put their children on the path of truth.

Embodiments of Love!

If you want that you and your children should attain purity and sacredness, constantly contemplate on God. If the parents lead a good and noble life, their children will also be good and noble. Hence, the parents should be good in the first instance. Unfortunately, today the parents are unable to set an example to their children, with the result that the children are taking to bad ways. The parents should, therefore, sanctify their life by contemplating on God. But the people of Bharat are forgetting these sacred teachings. The mothers in ancient times used to impart good lessons to their children in songs like this:

*Get up early in the morning at the crowing
of the cock,
Have a bath after your morning ablutions,
Wear a proper dress.
Eat properly and moderately.*

(Telugu Poem)

But what to speak of children, even elders do not follow the rules of cleanliness today. They do not even clean their teeth properly. That is why we ourselves are generating all sorts of diseases. For both, good and bad, we only are responsible. When we cultivate sacred feelings, we will be rewarded with good results. If sacred feelings are to take root in us, we have to cultivate good habits.

Once the village of Puttaparthi was affected by infectious diseases like cholera and plague. Several people died due to these diseases. Then, I warned the children of the village that these diseases would spread through drinking polluted water and eating impure food. I, therefore, advised them to take proper care in this regard. I advised them to drink clean and pure water. I told them, "Do not eat too much. Avoid unclean food. Eat only clean food in small quantities. Not only that, keep your mouth always fresh and clean. Several diseases affect you due to unclean mouth. It is not good to eat anything and everything when you feel hungry. Eat only wholesome food. God's grace is important both for good health and happiness in life. Hence, always pray to God." Happiness can be attained only through constant contemplation on God, nothing else. It is not something that can be attained from outside. It springs forth from one's own heart. In order to attain health and happiness, we



should constantly contemplate on God and thereby sanctify our time.

In ancient times, parents put their children on Godward path by their example. Such youth were a source of strength for Bharat. Unfortunately, today children do not obey their parents. Modern youth dismiss the wise words of their parents as mad talk. But these

will automatically develop good habits. In fact, the country needs such youth today. Who are the youth? People generally think that the boys and girls above the age of 18 years are the youth. This is not correct. Persons endowed with noble thoughts can only be called youth. Hence, one must cultivate noble thoughts. As soon as you get up, your first action should be chanting the Divine Name, Rama! Krishna! Govinda!



If you want that you and your children should attain purity and sacredness, constantly contemplate on God. If the parents lead a good and noble life, their children will also be good and noble. Hence, the parents should be good in the first instance. Unfortunately, today the parents are unable to set an example to their children, with the result that the children are taking to bad ways. The parents should, therefore, sanctify their life by contemplating on God.



are truthful and sacred words spoken by the parents with purity of their hearts. God showers His grace on those who pray with a pure heart. Since ancient times, the women of Bharat have been offering such prayers to God in all sincerity and devotion. That is how Bharat has been maintaining a high position in the world.

Sanctify your Life by Constant Contemplation on God

Engage yourself in good activities right from early morning. Then you



Again, before you go to bed, you should chant the Divine Name. When you chant the Divine Name, you will always have good thoughts. Unfortunately, people today totally forget chanting of the Divine Name. People think that they are highly educated and have high degrees, but their degrees will not enable them to tread the right path. Education that does not develop self-enquiry is no education at all. It will only lead to agitation! Mere reading of books does not constitute education. Reading of books will contribute only to bookish knowledge. That is artificial



knowledge. Real knowledge comes out of the heart. When young men and women realise and propagate this truth, the country will make all-round progress.

Embodiments of Love!

There is no need for you to read voluminous books. Even a small book is good enough if it can help you to contemplate on God. Do not be satisfied with acquiring mere bookish knowledge. Such knowledge is only superficial knowledge. What you need really is the knowledge of the Self. Strive to acquire that knowledge. It manifests from within. It cannot be acquired from outside. Is it not a fact that the more you dig the river bed, the more the water that comes out of the sand? Similarly, the more you remove your bad thoughts, the more the sacred knowledge and sacred thoughts manifest in you. Purity, steadiness, wisdom and such other noble qualities are present in your heart. First and foremost, develop sacred thoughts. Do not bother about what others talk about you. Do not leave your sacred path due to the adverse comments of others.

The mothers in ancient times imparted such sacred teachings to their children. That is why the children in those days, specially in the sacred land of Punjab, engaged themselves in constant contemplation of God. Due to these sacred thoughts of its people, the land of Punjab attained great sacredness. However, it is not the land that is important. What is important is that the thoughts and feelings of the people should be focused on God. Many people ask, "Where is God?" I tell them, "My dear! I am God; you are also God."

This is the truth. Why should we be afraid of speaking the truth? God resides in the heart of every being. All are the embodiments of God. There is divinity in every human being. If it were not so, we would not have existed in this world. It is only because of faith in God that man has had his existence in this world till today.

There lived in a village a husband and his wife. The wife was constantly chanting the Divine Name, Rama, Krishna, Govinda, performing worship of God and singing His glories. The husband, however, did not apparently perform any worship. The wife felt sorry that her husband was not uttering the name of God even once in a day. One night, the husband could not get sleep and kept tossing in the bed. In this state of restlessness, he unintentionally uttered "Rama!" His wife was overjoyed on hearing the Divine Name from the mouth of her husband. The next day, as soon as she got up from her bed, she collected all the rice available in the house, cooked it and fed the poor people in jubilation. The husband asked her, "What is the matter? You are cooking and feeding the poor today. What is the special occasion?" The wife replied, "Yesterday night, I heard the Divine Name of Rama from your mouth. I was overjoyed to hear it. Hence, this celebration." On hearing his wife's reply, the husband felt sad that the Name of Rama which he treasured in the inner recesses of his heart had come out. "Has my Rama gone out from my heart today?", he felt worried. Many people do not show their love and devotion for God. They keep their devotion close to their heart.

Continued on page 167 ...





CELEBRATION of Easwaramma Day on 6th May is now an event of global magnitude in which lakhs of Bal Vikas children in all parts of the world take part. A series of cultural, spiritual and social welfare programmes are organised in the memory of the Divine Mother Easwaramma who set great ideals to the world by her exemplary life. More particularly, her love for children and concern for the poor and downtrodden make her life a shining example of ideal womanhood for the entire mankind. Sai Organisations all over the world celebrate this day to express their love and gratitude to the Divine Mother Easwaramma.

This event assumes added glory and majesty when it is celebrated in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. A unique feature of this year's celebration was that the venue was Sai Sruthi, the Divine Abode of Bhagavan at Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu.

EASWARAMMA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT KODAIKANAL

Preparations for the celebrations of this auspicious day started on 5th May 2005 itself when on the evening of this day Sai Sruthi reverberated with Nadaswaram music. The entire premises of Sai Sruthi bore a festive look with decorations of flowers of Jasmine and K a n a k a m - baram, colourful buntings and festoons. Life-like photographs of the Divine Mother Easwaramma, aesthetically decorated with flower garlands, adorned Sai Sruthi.

Devotees in thousands braving the inhospitable cold weather started queuing up in front of the main gate of Sai Sruthi as early as 4 a.m. The programme started at 6.30 a.m. with Nadaswaram recital. Every available space in Sai Sruthi was occupied by devotees eagerly awaiting the Divine Darshan of their Beloved Bhagavan.

Veda chanting started as soon as Bhagavan came to bless the assembled devotees. As Bhagavan





Food and clothes being distributed to needy people on Easwaramma Day.

proceeded to the area where Narayana Seva was arranged, the students of Sri Sathya Sai institutions started soul-elevating Bhajans. After the Divine blessings of Bhagavan, food, Dhotis, Saris, blankets, raincoats and bedsheets were distributed to needy people. Bhagavan keenly watched

the distribution of clothes and Prasadam. The morning programme came to a close with Mangalarati to Bhagavan.

The afternoon programme commenced with Bhajans led by the students of Sri Sathya Sai institutions. Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations addressed the gathering in the Bhajan Hall. In His Discourse (full text given elsewhere), Bhagavan exhorted the devotees, particularly the children and youth, to sanctify their life by earning the love of their parents. After the Divine Discourse, an excellent play titled “Kali Yuga Nachiketa” was presented by Group III Bal Vikas students of Madurai district. Bhagavan sat through the entire programme, blessed the children at the end of the play and also posed for photographs with them. In the end, Mangalarati was offered to Bhagavan and Prasadam was distributed. Easwaramma Day celebrations at Kodaikanal came to a happy conclusion with the staging of this beautiful drama.

... Continued from page 165

However, one day or the other it gets manifested on its own.

Embodiments of Love!

Contemplate on the Divine Name, whatever be your religion, caste, creed or sex. Choose the Name of God you like and chant it constantly. The mother of Ramakrishna Paramahansa inculcated noble virtues in him and shaped him into a man of great wisdom and devotion. All mothers today should follow her example and strive to put their children on the right path. If you

constantly contemplate on God and chant His Name, that itself will purify your thoughts and feelings. Never forget the Divine Name. Constant remembrance of the Divine Name will sanctify your life. Therefore, contemplate on the Divine Name incessantly.

(Bhagavan concluded His Divine Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Rama Rama Rama Sita ...*”)

– From Bhagavan’s Easwaramma Day Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu on 6th May 2005.



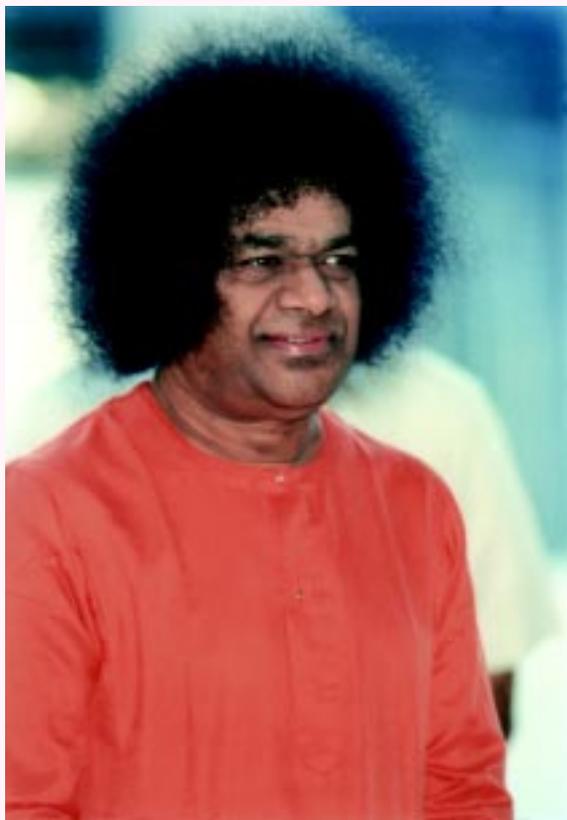
GIVE UP DUALITY TO EXPERIENCE UNITY AND DIVINITY

God is love and love is God. When you hold on to this principle of love and develop love to love relationship, you will attain the state of non-dualism.

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

YOU HAVE ALL COME HERE TO take part in the conference. Though your stay at Prasanthi Nilayam is short, your experiences are profound as you



The day on which all the devotees gather and sing the glory of God melodiously; the day on which the sufferings of the poor are lovingly removed and all people live like brothers and sisters; the day on which groups of Dasas (servants of God) who constantly contemplate on God are served



Mira experienced her oneness with Krishna through her non-dual love for Him. If one wishes to tread the path of devotion, one should hold on to the principle of love firmly.

Ordinary mortals do not have such firm determination, but a true devotee will never deviate from the path of love under any circumstances. No other path except love can take you to God. Develop love more and more. Love is with you, in you, around you. Love is changeless wherever you are; love is your sole refuge.



have described them at length in your speeches. However, you have yet to experience what you expect and deserve.

a sumptuous feast; the day on which noble souls visit us and narrate the stories of God lovingly; enjoy that day as the real day. All other days



are mere death anniversaries. Do I need to say more, oh noble souls?

(Telugu Poem)

Non-duality Signifies True Devotion

Embodiments of Love!

In this conference, you have deliberated upon many subjects such as duties and responsibilities of youth and how they should mould their character. Let all your activities be suffused with love. Modern youth fail to understand the true meaning of love. Love cannot exist if there is a feeling of duality. Ekatma Prema (non-dual love) is true love. Give and take relationship does not reflect the true spirit of love. One should keep giving and giving without expecting anything in return. That is true love. It is the sign of selfish love to desert someone in times of his difficulties. When you give up Swartha (selfishness) and strive for Parartha (welfare of others), only then can you have Yathartha Prema (true love). You should know the difference between Padartha (matter) and Yathartha (reality). Yathartha transcends Padartha. *Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma* (verily all this is Brahman). Consider everything as divine and treat the dualities of life such as pain and pleasure, loss and gain with equanimity. *Sukhadukhe Samekruthwa Labhalabhau Jayajayau* (one should remain unaffected by happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, victory and defeat). Never be carried away by the vagaries of the mind. When you go by the mind, you see only matter since the mind is related to matter. Have no concern with matter. If you associate yourself with the mind, you cannot achieve non-duality. You can

develop true love and devotion only when you give up duality.

Embodiments of Love!

Understand that the same principle of love exists in you and others. It is essential for every devotee to understand this principle of unity. One who observes duality cannot be called a true devotee. Non-duality signifies true devotion. Share your love with others without any expectation. Love everybody for the sake of love. When you extend your love to others, you can attain the state of non-dualism. The worldly love that you indulge in from morning to evening is not true love at all. True love is that which is focused on one form, one path and one goal. It is a great mistake to divide love and divert it to many directions. *Love is God. God is love. Live in love.* Only then can you realise the principle of oneness and attain fulfilment in life. *Prema Muditha Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram...* (Sing the sweet name of Rama with your heart filled with love). You may choose any name you like, but you should chant it with love.

Develop One-pointed Love for God

Love is most sacred, sweet and non-dual. It is a great mistake to divide love and associate it with multiplicity. Your love should remain steady in pleasure and pain. Where there is love and devotion, there is no scope for differences. All differences are the making of your mind. Develop the feeling of oneness that you and I are one. Never think that you and I are different. When you give up the feeling of duality, you will attain unity and divinity. That is the sign of true devotion.



The principle of oneness cannot be explained in words; it has to be experienced through love. But you do not understand the true meaning of love because you interpret it in the physical and worldly sense. Consequently, your love is never steady. It keeps changing every now and then. True love has no connection with the physical body. It should not be tainted with body attachment. The body is made up of matter. All that is related to matter will never give you peace and happiness. Hence, transcend the matter and see the reality. Develop Ekatma Bhava (feeling of oneness). *All are one, be alike to everyone.* It is a big mistake to attribute worldly feelings to love. There is no scope for dualism in love.

Embodiments of Love!

Your names and forms are different but the principle of love is the same in all of you. That is why I address you as the “embodiments of love”. Love is always one, it should not be divided. Consider God as one and love Him wholeheartedly. Such one-pointed love towards God can be termed as true devotion. Devotees like Jayadeva, Gauranga and Eknath developed such divine love and sanctified their lives. Likewise, Mira and Sakkubai had unwavering love and devotion towards God. They did not worship various names and forms. They followed one path. They installed one name and one form in their heart and contemplated on their chosen deity incessantly. Those who are dual-minded and change their path every now and then are bound to ruin their lives. Hence, never be dual-minded. Experience divinity with Ekatma Bhava. You may worship

Rama, Krishna, Easwara or any other name and form of God, you will reach the same goal. Never forget the goal.

Mira's Non-dual Love for Krishna

Names and forms appear to be different, but the reality behind all these is one and the same. However, people are unable to look deep within themselves and experience this oneness. The power of love is unparalleled. There is no power greater than this. Love cannot be understood by experiments and investigations. It can be understood only through love and nothing else. Mira's husband Rana could not tolerate her singing in the Mandir all the time. He commanded her to go out of the Mandir. This came as a great shock to Mira. She thought to herself, “Is Krishna inside the Mandir and not outside? When Krishna is present everywhere, how can Rana take me away from Him?” After understanding this reality, she left her home and set out for Mathura. Mathura is not merely the name of a town. In fact, the heart suffused with Madhura Bhava (sweetness) is Mathura. She sang, *Chalo Re Man Ganga Yamuna Teer, Ganga Yamuna Nirmal Pani Sheetal Hota Sarir* (Oh mind! Go to the banks of the Ganga and Yamuna; the water of Ganga and Yamuna is pure; it will make the body cool and serene). Here Ganga and Yamuna symbolically mean Ida and Pingala (left and right subtle channels in the spine). The centre of the eyebrows where Ida and Pingala meet stands for Mathura. This is the real meaning of the song. But people these days do not enquire into the inner meaning of these truths. They are carried away by the worldly meanings



and interpretations. Do not go by these interpretations. The feelings of one's heart are most important. They are true, steady, changeless and eternal.

Mira proceeded towards Mathura chanting the Name of Krishna incessantly,



crossing rivers, hills, dales and forests and ultimately reached Brindavan. Her husband Rana repented for having ill-treated Mira and came there. He prayed to her for forgiveness. After some time she went to Dwaraka, but she found the temple doors closed. In spite of her repeated prayers, the doors did not open. Then she said, "Oh Krishna, you don the crown of peacock feathers and the yellow robe. Make my heart Your temple. Dwell in the

altar of my heart." She banged her head against the temple door, calling out to Krishna. Krishna manifested there and she merged in Him. Mira installed Krishna in her heart. In this way, Mira experienced her oneness with Krishna through her non-dual love for Him. If one wishes to tread the path of devotion, one should hold on to the



Love is most sacred, sweet and non-dual. It is a great mistake to divide love and associate it with multiplicity. Your love should remain steady in pleasure and pain. Where there is love and devotion, there is no scope for differences. All differences are the making of your mind. Develop the feeling of oneness that you and I are one. Never think that you and I are different. When you give up the feeling of duality, you will attain unity and divinity. That is the sign of true devotion.



principle of love firmly. Ordinary mortals do not have such firm determination, but a true devotee will never deviate from the path of love under any circumstances. No other path except love can take you to God. Develop love more and more. Love is with you, in you, around you. Love is changeless wherever you are; love is your sole refuge.

Suffuse all your Activities with Love

Embodiments of Love!

Fill your hearts with love and let love be the guiding principle of all your



activities when you return home. When you have love in your heart, you do not need to worry about anything. God will always be with you, in you, around you and will look after you in all respects. When you say, "Krishna, I will follow You," it means that Krishna is separate from you. It is possible that you may lose your way. Hence, you should pray, "Krishna, please be with me always." In fact, He is always in you. When you enquire deeply, you will experience this truth. It is impossible to be away from Him. Many devotees proclaim, "Oh God, I am in You, I am with You and I am for You." They repeat these words in a superficial way; they do not say from the depth of their heart. Actually, God is never separate from you. Pray to Him wholeheartedly with firm conviction that He is always in you, with you, above you, below you and around you. When you offer such a prayer to God, He will certainly redeem your life.

You have one more day for deliberations. I will further explain all these truths in detail so that you can easily understand them. Do not feel satisfied with what you have experienced so far. There is much more to be experienced which will fill your heart with bliss. How can you say that your hunger is



The principle of oneness cannot be explained in words; it has to be experienced through love. But you do not understand the true meaning of love because you interpret it in the physical and worldly sense. Consequently, your love is never steady. It keeps changing every now and then. True love has no connection with the physical body. It should not be tainted with body attachment. The body is made up of matter. All that is related to matter will never give you peace and happiness. Hence, transcend the matter and see the reality.



satisfied by eating a little? There is a lot of scope for you to experience divinity in full measure in the days to come.

– **From Bhagavan's Valedictory Discourse on the occasion of third Sadhana Camp for Kerala youth in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 13th April 2005.**

Manishi (man) will be transformed into Maharishi (sage) by engaging in selfless service. The merit that can be obtained from service cannot be acquired even from the practice of rigorous austerities. Service brings human beings closer to each other, and promotes affection and friendship. Without this friendship and feeling of love for one's fellowmen, one cannot attain intimacy with the Lord.

- Baba



Celebrations at Brindavan

SPREADING DIVINE VIBRATIONS

SACRED chants of Vedic Mantras along with offer of oblations in the sacred fire filled the air with spiritual vibrations when ceremonies were held to perform Yajnas for three

YAJNAS FOR THE WELFARE
OF THE WORLD

days from 16th May to 18th May 2005 for the welfare of the world at Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The venue of these ceremonies was Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall which was beautifully decorated with flowers, plantain and mango leaves. While four Yajna Kundas were set up on

the dais, one was set up below the dais in the Hall for the performance of these ceremonies. An altar was also set up on

the dais where Kalashas (sacred vessels) were placed for worship

by the priests. All the Yajnas were conducted by the priests from the Kollur Mookambika temple, Udipi and Shirdi Sai Temple, Bangalore.

On the first day, i.e., 16th May 2005, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 7.20 a.m. in a majestic procession comprising the Veda chanting group of students and the



priests who carried the Poornakumbham led by Nadaswaram musicians. The entire Hall reverberated with sacred chants from the Vedas as the priests started making preparations for the conduct of Dhanvantari



The altar set up on the dais for Kalasha worship in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall.

Homa that was scheduled for this morning. Before commencing the Yajna, the priests performed Ganesh Puja, Kalasha Puja and offered other traditional prayers. At 8.00 a.m., Bhagavan blessed the sacred fire which was placed in the Yajna Kunda by the priests amidst sacred chants. When the priests started the performance of the Yajna, Bhagavan sat in His chair near the Yajna Kunda and blessed the performance of the Yajna. The environment was surcharged with sacred vibrations as a group of priests seated near the Yajna Kunda engaged themselves in the performance of the Yajna and another group of priests seated on the dais chanted Vedic Mantras. Besides, the students of the Institute

sang Bhajans and recited Mantras. Amidst sacred chants and Nadaswaram music, Poornahuti blessed by Bhagavan was offered in the Yajna Kunda by the priests at 9.45 a.m. After this, the priests offered Arati to Bhagavan and received blessings from Him. Durga Suktam, Mantra Pushpam and other sacred chants continued till 11.00 a.m. when the ceremonies came to a happy conclusion. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end. Chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests and students continued in the afternoon also. After the Vedic chants, there were Bhajans led by the students of the Institute. The programme in the afternoon concluded with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 6.00 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the afternoon also.

On the morning of 17th May 2005, Puja was started by the priests at 7.00 a.m. with the chanting of Vedic Mantras. Beautiful decorations were done on the dais with flowers of different colours. The altar where Kalashas were placed was also aesthetically decorated with fresh flowers. Three Yajna Kundas which had already been made on the left side of the dais were also decorated and sanctified by chanting of Mantras by the priests. Bhagavan came to the Hall at 7.45 a.m. and blessed the Ritwiks and the sacred Yajna fire. After receiving blessings from Bhagavan, fire was lit in all the three Yajna Kundas and groups of priests sat around each Yajna Kunda to perform Rudra Homa, Mrityunjaya Homa and Durga Homa simultaneously. While the priests offered oblations into the Yajna Kundas with chanting of Mantras, the Institute students recited Vedic chants and a group of ladies devotees chanted





Yajna being performed with the chanting of Vedic Mantras in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall.

Lalita Sahasranama. The Yajnas continued up to 10.00 a.m. sanctifying the environment and filling the air with sacred vibrations of Divine Name. At the conclusion of the Yajnas, the priests offered Arati to Bhagavan and received blessings from Him. Bhagavan also distributed clothes to them. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.30 a.m. and distribution of Prasadam to all. Sudarshan Homa was performed on the afternoon of 17th May 2005. Before the start of the Yajna, there were Bhajans led by the Institute students from 4.00 to 4.30 p.m. Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 4.30 p.m. and blessed the priests to start the Yajna. Bhagavan also blessed the sacred fire which was placed in the Yajna Kunda by the priests. Thereafter, the priests started Vedic chants appropriate for the performance of Sudarshan Homa and offered oblations into the Yajna Kunda. The students also continued to recite Vedic Mantras. At the conclusion of this sacred Yajna, Poornahuti blessed by Bhagavan was put into the Yajna fire at 8.30 p.m. amidst chanting of

Mantras, sounding of the bell and sacred notes of Nadaswaram music. The programme concluded at 9.00 p.m. with offer of Mangalarati to Bhagavan.

The Yajna ceremonies started on the morning of 16th May 2005 concluded with the performance of Shatachandi Homa on the morning of 18th May 2005. A Yajna Kunda for this Yajna was specially constructed in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in front of the dais. Puja was started by the priests at 6.45 a.m. with prayer to Lord Ganesh. Sacred Yajna fire was lit amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and auspicious Nadaswaram music at 7.15 a.m. With the blessings of Bhagavan, the priests started the performance of the Yajna by putting oblations into the sacred fire with the chanting of Durga Saptashati, Durga Suktam, Sri Suktam, Gayatri Mantra, Sai Gayatri, etc. Institute students and ladies devotees also joined the chanting of sacred Mantras. The Yajna continued in this way for nearly three hours. At 10.25 Poornahuti material blessed by Bhagavan was put into the Yajna fire amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras, Nadaswaram music and ringing of the Mandir bell. Chanting of Mantras continued for some time after this. At 10.50 a.m. Mangalarati was offered to Bhagavan by the priests. Bhagavan showered His blessings on them and distributed clothes to them. After the performance of the Yajna, renowned singers Smt. Parveen Sultana and her husband Ustad Dilshad Khan sang Bhajans in praise of Devi and Bhagavan Baba. The programme concluded with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 11.20 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.



BUDDHA PURNIMA CELEBRATIONS

THE holy festival of Buddha Purnima was celebrated at Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 23rd May 2005 in which thousands of devotees from India and overseas countries took part. Apart from a large number of devotees from India, over 2000 devotees came from overseas countries, viz., Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea and Nepal to celebrate it in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The celebrations continued on 24th May 2005 also.

Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, the venue of celebrations, was beautifully decorated on this occasion with banners, buntings, plantain leaves and flowers. An electronic display panel in the Hall conveyed the central message of Buddhism in these famous words: *Buddham Saranam Gachchhami, Dhammam Saranam Gachchhami, Sangham Saranam Gachchhami*. Exquisite decorations on the dais looked very charming with aesthetic flower arrangement. An altar was set up on the dais in an artistic manner, in which beautiful idols of Buddha were placed. Candles were ceremoniously lit before the idols of Buddha in the altar on the morning of 23rd May 2005 before the commencement of the programme. Later, Buddhist priests, who had come from Sri Lanka and Indonesia to participate in the celebrations, performed the Abhishekam (sacred bath) of the idols with the accompaniment of holy chants.

On the morning of 23rd May 2005, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 7.55 a.m. in a grand

procession led by a group of Buddhist priests from Sri Lanka and Indonesia followed by traditional dancers of Sri Lanka in their traditional dress. Meanwhile, Buddhist devotees in the Hall played sweet tunes of Sai Bhajans. As soon as Bhagavan came to the dais, the devotees gathered in the Hall waved colourful Buddhist flags. At the same time, the dancers displayed their art to the beat of drums to the delight of the mammoth gathering in the Hall. Soon after this, Bhajans commenced which were led alternately by the ladies and gents devotees of Sri Lanka. Singing of the glories of the Lord went on for nearly one hour surcharging the environment with sacred vibrations. At the conclusion of Bhajans, Arati was offered to Bhagavan and Prasadam was distributed to all. Later in the day, Narayana Seva was performed, and food and clothes blessed by Bhagavan were distributed to the needy.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to the Hall at 3.25 p.m. amidst sacred chants by the overseas devotees. Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, three speakers blessed by Bhagavan addressed the gathering. Introducing the speakers, Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman, Prasanthi Council observed that Buddha showed the way to bliss, enlightenment and salvation to mankind. Quoting from a Discourse of Bhagavan, Dr. Goldstein exhorted the devotees to rely on their innate reality to achieve the goal of life as shown by Buddha. After this, Sri Karu Jayasuriya, a former Minister of Sri Lanka, addressed the gathering. Sri Jayasuriya said that the values taught by Buddha to mankind





The altar set up on the dais in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

2500 years ago have been revived by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for modern man to follow and redeem his life. The next speaker, Sri Mangala Munasinghe, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in India, said that man should remove the poison of desire, anger and jealousy from his heart and inculcate the values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa taught by Bhagavan. Narrating her personal experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity, the last speaker, Kumari Mala Sabaratnam of Sri Lanka observed that the teachings of Bhagavan, such as '*Help Ever, Hurt Never*', '*Hands that Serve are Holier than Lips that Pray*', could transform mankind if they were put into practice.

At the end of these speeches, Bhagavan graciously released the souvenir to commemorate 40 years

of Sai Seva in Sri Lanka and two books entitled "Baba My Father" and "Buddha and Baba". After this, Bhagavan gave His Buddha Purnima message. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) The programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.00 p.m.

In the evening, traditional dances of Sri Lanka were presented by the dancers to the beat of Sri Lankan drums in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Based on the famous street pageant of the sacred Buddhist temple enshrining the tooth relic of Buddha, the dances kept the audience spellbound for over 30 minutes. The programme which started at 5.25 p.m. came to a close at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.



On the morning of 24th May 2005, there were Bhajans which were led by the overseas devotees who had come from ten countries to take part in Buddha Purnima celebrations. It was really a grand presentation that delighted one and all. The programme which started at 9.00 a.m. came to a close at 9.30 a.m.

On the afternoon of 24th May 2005, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 4.00 p.m. After Bhagavan was seated on the dais, a musical programme of rhythms on Sri Lankan and Indian drums was presented by Sri Lankan devotees. After this excellent presentation on drums, Bhajans commenced which were led by overseas devotees. The programme in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall came to a close at 4.35 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Soon after this, Bal Vikas children of Sri Lanka presented a drama entitled "Life with the Divine" in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam. The drama beautifully depicted the creation of the universe from the primordial sound Aum, and the relationship of five basic elements with five human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa propounded by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The dances of the children, their costumes, appropriate lighting and music effects portrayed the scenes of the creation of the five elements and the universe beautifully. The drama was a superb presentation from all points of view and brought out the main theme clearly that man should live in harmony with five elements by putting human values into practice in his life. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the cast and posed for photographs with them. The programme came to a close at 5.45

p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Buddha Purnima celebrations concluded with this beautiful drama.

AN EXHIBITION ON NAMA SANKIRTAN

A very informative and educative exhibition was set up in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam, Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on the theme of Nama Sankirtan (singing the glories of the Lord) on 28th and 29th May 2005 as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. On the morning of 28th May 2005, Bhagavan inaugurated the exhibition which was later opened for public. Organised by the Spiritual Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Karnataka, the exhibition entitled 'Sai Nama Kirtana Kali Yuga Sadhana' depicted the efficacy of chanting the Divine Name in the spiritual development of man. It was based on the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and conveyed valuable lessons for the Sadhana of Nama Sankirtan. A section on Hindustani and Carnatic music gave very useful information about Indian music. Similarly, the section on Bhajan singing was informative and educative. Another section described the life stories of great saints, poets and musicians who attained liberation through Nama Sankirtan. An interesting aspect of the exhibition was the audio-visual presentation of each section and the interactive section of the Raga section where as many as 27 Bhajans were made available on computers. One could listen to these Bhajans and also view the name of their Raga as well as the Arohana and Avarohana of that Raga.



DEVELOP THE SPIRIT OF ONENESS

Embodiments of Love!

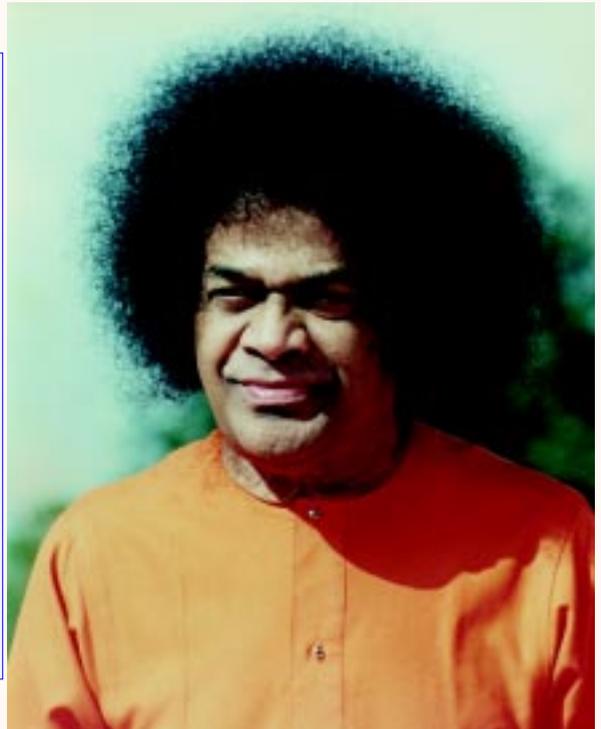
MANY DIGNITARIES FROM SRI Lanka have spoken to you about the great teachings of Buddha. First of all, you have to understand that God is omnipresent. There is no place where you do not find God. The essence of the teachings of all scriptures is that God is present everywhere. Out of their ignorance, some people argue that God is limited to a particular place.

*See no evil; see what is good,
Talk no evil; talk what is good,
Hear no evil; hear what is good,
Do no evil; do what is good,
Be always with God.*

Some people call Him Rama, some others adore Him as Krishna and still some others worship Him as Buddha. Names and forms may vary, but God is one. God is not limited



Only those with self-confidence are true Bhaktas (devotees). You cannot call yourself a devotee if you lack self-confidence. Without self-confidence, you cannot achieve anything in life. Therefore, first and foremost develop firm and unshakeable self-confidence. From self-confidence arises self-satisfaction. Self-satisfaction shows you the path of self-sacrifice which ultimately leads to self-realisation.



Divinity Indwells all Beings

Truly speaking, Divinity is present in everyone and is all-pervasive. This is the basic truth of all doctrines and philosophies. See everywhere God. If you see God everywhere, nothing bad will happen to you. This Ekatma Bhava (principle of oneness) should be understood by the Bharatiyas.

to a particular name, form, region or religion. There is only one God who pervades every atom of the creation. Words fail to express the glory and grandeur of Divinity. People may describe Divinity in a number of ways, but no description can ever portray Divinity in full measure.



In fact, to describe Divinity is a sign of delusion. Where is God? You are all the embodiments of God. God pervades all beings as their life-breath. Such transcendental principle of Divinity cannot be described. One may do one's best to describe it at any length, yet all descriptions will fall short of what reality is. Water is infinite; a container cannot hold more water than its capacity. As is the size of the container, so is the quantity of water collected. Likewise, God is infinite, but each one describes Him based on his limited understanding. Divinity is much more than what human mind can comprehend.

Embodiments of Love!

It is impossible for anyone to describe Divinity in full measure. God is one, but people may describe Him in various ways depending on their feelings. Divinity is one. It is sign of ignorance to divide God in the name of religion and limit Him to a particular name and form. God is limitless and boundless. He is Sarvantaryami (all-knowing inner reality). He is Sarva Bhutantaratma (indweller of all beings). How can anyone describe such Divinity? God is present in everyone in the form of Atma (Self). Develop such self-confidence and spirit of oneness. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). (Pointing to the tumbler, Swami said) This is water. Telugu people call it Neeru, Tamilians call it Thanni, so on and so forth. Different people call it by different names, but water is the same. Likewise, the same God is extolled by various names. The indweller is the same in all beings. People worship God by

different names and forms, but God is one. The principle of the Atma which resides in everyone is the true divine power. Only those with self-confidence are true Bhaktas (devotees). You cannot call yourself a devotee if you lack self-confidence. Without self-confidence, you cannot achieve anything in life. Therefore, first and foremost develop firm and unshakeable self-confidence. From self-confidence arises self-satisfaction. Self-satisfaction shows you the path of self-sacrifice which ultimately leads to self-realisation. Self-confidence is the basis for self-realisation.

There is Nothing like my God and your God

Today many people practise meditation without knowing what it is. In the process, they waste a lot of time. What is meditation? Is it to sit cross-legged with closed eyes? No. Not at all. People undertake meditation with a deluded mind. Consequently, they are unable to achieve the desired result. What is meant by meditation? To think of God at all times and under all circumstances is true meditation. You should install God in your heart and discharge your duties with the feeling that God is the basis of everything. Only then can you be called a true devotee. Wherever you go, whatever you may do, recognise the truth that there is only one God and He is all-pervasive. Never give scope for differences saying, my God and your God. Where is your God? Where is my God? All are one; be alike to everyone. There is only one God and He is present in everyone. It is a big mistake to think that God is different for different people. You should have firm faith that God is



one. The process of inhalation and exhalation as indicated by the Soham principle is one and the same in everybody. Soham means "I am God." This clearly demonstrates that God is not different from you. When man comes into the world, the first word he utters is "Koham, Koham" (who am I?). He should constantly keep asking this question until he realises his true identity. He should realise his true nature and proclaim, "Soham, Soham" (I am God) before leaving the world.

Never attribute multiplicity to Divinity on the basis of different names and forms such as Rama, Krishna, Jesus, Allah, Buddha, etc. You may call Him by any name, but God is one and the same. But these days, we do not find teachers who can make lasting impression on the hearts of people by imparting such sacred teachings. All the time, man keeps searching for God elsewhere. How can you find God elsewhere? Some people may call Him Allah; others may call Him by some other name. Does God become different for different people just because they call Him by different names? No, no. These are only names. To think that God is



Today many people practise meditation without knowing what it is. In the process, they waste a lot of time. What is meditation? Is it to sit cross-legged with closed eyes? No. Not at all. People undertake meditation with a deluded mind. Consequently, they are unable to achieve the desired result. What is meant by meditation? To think of God at all times and under all circumstances is true meditation.



different for different people is a great delusion. You may call Him by any name. God is one.

Sri Lanka will be Safe and Secure

When you develop such spirit of oneness, you will certainly have Sakshatkara (vision of the Divine). Everyone should develop Ekatma Bhava (spirit of oneness). *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). It is sheer ignorance to say, "My God is different from your God". Those who quarrel with each other in



the name of religion are foolish people. For some time now, certain types of differences have cropped up in Sri Lanka. Whatever others may say, we have to firmly believe that God is one. It is a great mistake to develop differences on the basis of our deluded thinking.

Once an old woman went in search of Jesus. When she met him, she asked, "Are you Jesus?" Jesus replied, "That is the name given to me. But you can call me by any name, I shall respond." Names and forms are bound to change. When you are born, people call you a child. As you grow up, you are called a boy, then you become a man and later on a grandfather. But the child, boy, man and grandfather are one and the same. Childhood, youth and old age are merely the different stages of your life. But you are one and the same. Similarly, names and forms may be different, but God is one.

Embodiments of Love!

You have come here all the way from Sri Lanka because of your love for Me. My love for you is hundred times more than the love you have for Me (*prolonged loud applause*). Sri Lanka had to face many hardships, even from the time of Ravana. But Sri Lanka can never be put to harm. It will always be safe, secure and prosperous (*loud prolonged applause*). God is the leader of your country. As long as you have faith in God, you have nothing to fear. May you all enjoy safety and security! Wherever you go, whatever you do, have firm conviction that God is always with you, in you, around you, above you, below you. Do not be carried away by what others say. Have God firmly installed in your heart. You can never be put to any harm. No danger can ever befall you.

Lead your lives with such courage and conviction. God will certainly bless you with success.

Embodiments of Love!

The hearts of the people of Sri Lanka are sacred. Hence, they will always enjoy safety and security. Difficulties will come and go like passing clouds. You don't need to be afraid of anything. God will always protect you. Be courageous and face difficulties with fortitude. You are the embodiments of Love. Where there is love, there cannot be any adversity. Love is God. God is Love. Hence, fill your hearts with love.

Embodiments of Love!

Very soon I will visit Sri Lanka and bestow eternal bliss on all of you (*thunderous applause*). In the present situation, it is difficult for Me to walk. However, difficulty is only for the body. It comes and goes. I do not care for such physical constraints. I will certainly come to your country very soon and fulfil your long cherished dream. Right from a child to an old man, devotees in Sri Lanka think of Swami always. Your prayers and penance will certainly find fulfilment very soon. Cherish this sacred feeling in your heart. The passage of time will not affect the intimate relationship that exists between you and Me. It is eternal and everlasting.

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

– From Bhagavan's Buddha Purnima Discourse in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 23rd May 2005.



80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THE WORK CONTINUES

1. Medical Camps

Venezuela

On 27th February 2005, the Sai Organisation of Venezuela conducted its 5th cataract eye camp at the Instituto de Micro Cirugia Ocular hospital in Caracas. Ten



A patient being attended to after the eye operation in Venezuela.

cataract eye operations were performed in two operating theatres. Eight doctors were assisted by a team of forty devotees who provided food, transportation, and most importantly loving care. All such operations performed since 2003 have been successful and this medical camp brought the total operations performed to 100. In addition to eye surgeries, members of the Sai Organisation of Venezuela provided laboratory services and postoperative care free of cost with love. The patients, who were selected from economically poor neighbourhoods, were happy to receive the treatment with loving care.

Brazil

The Sathya Sai Organisation of Brazil organised a medical camp on 4th February 2005 in São Paulo. Five doctors, 3 dentists, 5 nurses, 1 pharmacist, 5 psychologists and 88 Sai volunteers served 256 patients. Paediatric services, infantile nutrition services, dental services, ophthalmologic prevention, blood pressure check-ups, cardiology services, and quality life and healthcare education were provided with love and dedication. Sai volunteers prepared refreshments for the patients and arranged separate rooms for meditation and devotional singing. Seeing the whole environment charged with divine fervour, one patient remarked, "Everything that is made with love works."

USA

The Sai Centres of Manhattan and Scarsdale, New York joined the Sai Centres of Shelton and Norwalk, Connecticut to organise a Health Fair on 2nd April 2005 at Hart Magnet Elementary School, Stamford, Connecticut. With unity and love, 17 doctors, 5 lab/clinical assistants, 1 diabetic educator, 2 nutritionists, 10 Spanish translators and 58 Sai volunteers participated in this health fair. A total of 155 patients received medical care and health information. Screening booths were arranged for height/weight/BMI, blood pressure, asthma screen, eye, cholesterol/HDL/glucose, haemoglobin and mammograms. In addition, preventive healthcare booths such as obesity/dietetics/nutrition, cancer, stress



management, diabetes, HIV, coronary diseases and hypertension provided information and awareness. Family practitioners and specialists in paediatrics, cardiology, internal medicine, oncology, obstetrics and gynaecology, and psychology served the patients with loving care.

Impressed with the services provided by Sai volunteers, many patients requested the Sai centres to hold another health fair before winter. The Principal of Hart Magnet Elementary School was pleased with the services, as the patients were able to spend time with doctors from various disciplines and discuss about their health problems. She felt that the health fair was unique because even those who buy expensive health insurance often do not get access to all medical services on the same day.

2. Community Service Programmes

Italy

A free canteen for needy people was started in the premises of the Sai Centre in Faenza. The project was also welcomed by the local social services with great interest. In 1997, Bhagavan blessed the project. Today, members of the Faenza Sai Centre have served approximately 17,000 meals to the needy.

Thailand

On 6th March 2005, the students of the EHV classes along with their teachers visited the slums in Klong Toey, Bangkok. They distributed 418 food packets to the children and adults. Each food packet had milk, noodles and a fruit. The students also spoke and taught



Items of daily need were distributed to needy people in Bangkok, Thailand.

human values songs to the children. On 16th March 2005, Sai devotees helped the fire victims of Klong Toey slums in Bangkok to purchase necessities such as rice, noodles, milk, towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste and mugs.

USA

With the blessings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the devotees of Arizona in collaboration with the researchers and students of Arizona State University started an IT project called "iCARE", which stands for Information Technology Centric Assistive and Rehabilitative Environment. The goal of the project is to do selfless service to those who depend on others for their day-to-day activities, and thereby to achieve individual transformation. When the idea for this project was conceived in 2001, the devotees approached the local deaf and blind support organisation. Then the requirements were gathered from the blind children, students and adults, their families and friends, disability specialists and mobility instructors. They also nailed down the most important challenges faced by the blind individuals.



After much research, four devices were designed: 1) iCARE Reader Device that can



A visually challenged person is being helped to read a text through iCARE Reader Device.

help the blind to read a book or paper; 2) iCARE-Interaction Assistant, a wearable camera that can help the blind to identify and greet people; 3) iCARE Information Assistant that can help to get information from anywhere in the world; 4) iCARE Haptics, a touch interface for the blind and the rehabilitating patients with neurological disorders, which can help to feel objects. Bhagavan's sweet words "I will help, I will help" in an interview is the only energy that made all the above possible.

Two blind students received a degree in computer science using the iCARE Reader Device. Eleven more children from the nearby schools are now being trained. It is also currently deployed at a local organisation for blind children. The iCARE Information Assistant is being considered for deployment in many

locations. Research on other iCARE projects is well underway.

The iCARE project was presented at the World Health Organisation's Global Health Forum summit in Mexico City in November 2004 as a demonstration of one of the missions of WHO, namely, helping disabled individuals realise their fullest potential. The project was awarded the prestigious Governor's Innovator of the Year award. The above accolades are but minute facets of Bhagavan's infinite glory and a confirmation that His Divine Will shall always prevail.

3. Public Meetings

Japan

The year 2005 marks the 30th anniversary of the birth of the Sai Organisation in Japan. In celebration of this milestone, the 8th All Japan National Convention was held in the city of Nagoya for three consecutive days from 19th March. Over 300 people attended the convention. The theme of the convention was "Unity, Purity and Divinity". After the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, Sri L.P. Chablani, National Chairman of the Sai Organisation of Japan, welcomed everyone. A slide show summarising 30 years of growth of the Sai Organisation in Japan was then presented.

Dr. Pal Dhall, Zonal Chairman, gave an inspiring talk on the emerging awareness of spiritual oneness. He emphasised that scientists, politicians, and policy makers now realise that only the path of unity showed by Bhagavan could solve the current social, economic and medical problems in the world. Sri Makino explained the



importance of the Vedas, which was followed by workshops on the five elements and a Japanese folk dance. All the participants vowed to burn one of their vices as an offering to the Lord. On the final day of the convention, Dr. Pal Dhall and Smt. Tehseen Dhall conducted a workshop on human values in parenting, which was followed by an inspiring talk on "One with Sai" by Sri Ryuko Hira.

A unique feature of this Convention was a picture of Swami made from 39,000 coloured origami cranes, which formed the backdrop on the stage. Devotees in all 24 Sai Centres throughout Japan worked in unity to create this one-of-a-kind picture by writing "Om Sai Ram" on little origami coloured papers and then folding them into cranes.

Canada

On 23rd March 2005, a symposium on Character Education was organised in Toronto. It was attended by over 30 people.



A view of the gathering at the symposium on Character Education in Toronto, Canada.

The speakers, Ms. Carole Alderman, Ms. Nancy Campbell, Ms. Sandra Dean and Dr. Yassin Sankar emphasised the need for character education with

many quotes from Bhagavan's Discourses, which elevated the minds of the educators, parents, trustees from school boards and City Councillors. At the Holiday Inn in Brampton, Ontario, a four-day interactive workshop on human values, starting 25th March was organised by Ms. Carole Alderman. Over 100 participants across Canada, many of them educators from private and public schools, attended the workshop. The participants felt the need for value education and were encouraged to explore avenues for introducing the character education programme in their schools and communities.

Switzerland

On 12th March 2005, the Sathya Sai Centre of Ticino organised a public meeting. About 40 people attended the meeting, of whom over 20 were newcomers. Speaking about Bhagavan and His work, Sri Gioachino Carenini, President of the Sai Centre, and Smt. Suzanne Carenini, EHV Coordinator of Switzerland and South Europe, inspired everyone to know more about the teachings of Bhagavan. Sri G. Bebedelis, EHV Coordinator of Greece, concluded the presentation with an inspiring talk on "Know Thyself."

– Prasanthi Council

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: Uravakonda Samithi of Anantapur district started 80-day Annasatram on 27th April 2005 in the premises of the Avatar Declaration Centre to provide midday meals to about 80 selected persons as part of

80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan. Sumptuous lunch was served to 800 people, cooking vessels were given to 8 selected poor families, new Saris and blouses (stitched) were given to 70 poor women, new Dhotis and shirts (stitched) were given to 25 men and one sewing machine was given to a poor woman for eking out her livelihood in the inaugural function of Annasatram which will be carried out up to 15th July 2005.

Mahabubnagar district constructed 2 mini water tanks at Palkonigutta Thanda village to meet the drinking water needs of Girijans.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: Sai workers of Diphu organised a free medicine distribution cum counselling camp in a virtually inaccessible remote village of the district. The daylong camp held on 24th April 2005 at Donghap M.E. School came as a boon to a large number of hill tribes suffering from malaria, stomach problems, recurrent fever, skin diseases like eczema, etc. Faculties drawn from district health authorities educated the villagers on health and hygiene and the need to observe certain disciplines in life to remain free from ailments. Stress was laid on the importance of preventive measures to keep at bay malaria as well as the scourge of modern times – AIDS. The District Council authorities requested the Sai Organisation to conduct more such camps in remote areas.

Orissa: As part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the youth of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Cuttack district have decided to offer a divine project, "Sai Barnalee" at the Lotus Feet. The project includes:

1. Sri Sathya Sai Yuva Chetana Saptaha
2. Grama Pushpanjalee
3. Sai Youth in Sai Sannidhi

The objective of this project is to create moral and spiritual awareness among college-going students (through "Sri Sathya Sai Yuva Chetana Saptaha"), to make them aware of their responsibilities towards society by involving them in Grama Seva in 80 villages (through "Grama Pushpanjalee") and finally to give an opportunity to them so that they can have Bhagavan's Divine Darshan at Prasanthi Nilayam (through "Sai Youth in Sai Sannidhi").

As part of this divine project, Sri Sathya Sai Yuva Chetana Saptaha was observed from 21st February 2005 to 27th February 2005 at Cuttack which was attended by 140 college students. During this weeklong programme, competitions like paragraph writing, debating, painting, guess the plot, listen and write, quiz, etc., were conducted among the participants to test their aptitude and attitude. Discussions on "Divine Grace is Proportionate to Human Effort", "Awareness is Life" and "Discipline is the Mark of Intelligent Living" were also held. Opportunity was also given to the participants to put various questions, and the questions asked by them were answered to satisfy their spiritual hunger.

The valedictory function was held on 27th February 2005. Justice Manoranjan Mohanty, Member, Judicial Central Administrative Tribunal, Orissa attended the function as Chief Guest and distributed prizes and certificates



to the participants. On this day, most of the participants made their commitment to take part in Grama Seva in 80 villages during the "Grama Pushpanjalee" phase which is to be observed during March 2005 – June 2005. The grand weeklong programme came to a happy conclusion with offering of Mangalarati to Bhagavan.

Tamil Nadu: As part of Silver Jubilee celebrations of Sundaram, the Divine Abode of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Chennai, Sri Sathya Sai Sahasranama Koti Archana was performed from 23rd January 2005 to 24th April 2005. 6612 Mahilas and 4698 gents devotees participated in this Yajna. The devotees from nearby districts of Chengalpet, Vellore, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram also participated in it. On the concluding day of the Sahasranama Koti Archana, i.e., 24th April 2005, Ganapati Homa and Dhanvantari Homa were performed which were attended by over 400 devotees.

Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal: Pokhri is a small remote village with 70 hamlets of poor farmers without electricity in the hilly district of Pauri Garhwal in Uttaranchal. A small water channel flows nearby. Sai Organisation thought of utilising the Head from this channel and generate electricity by installing a micro hydro turbo-generator set and provide electricity to the villagers as part of Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations. The turbine-wheel and gear box were fabricated in the local workshop and the 7.5 kw generator and other electric accessories were procured from Meerut.

Modifications of fabricated equipment at site, necessary adjustments, installation and a series of trial runs took a few months. Heavy duty cable (750 metres) was laid from generating Head to the houses in the village. Complete set of one tube-light with accessories was installed in each house. The Sai Organisation bore all the expenditure on this humble effort. A team of several members and villagers took keen interest in the work. A village mechanic was trained during this period and he will be useful later on for its maintenance. Complete system was formally inaugurated on 18th April 2005 after Nagar Sankirtan in the morning by our team and the villagers along with their headman who joined joyfully. As there are no rains during April, May and June, water is diverted for irrigation. As such electricity could be provided to 10 houses only. Later on when sufficient water is available, electricity would be provided to all the 70 houses. The villagers were immensely happy as they had the boon of light for the first time and expressed gratitude to Bhagavan and the Sai Organisation for this gift of love. The village headman has been requested to look after the maintenance and security of all the equipment as the same has become their property now. Bhagavan was the source of constant inspiration, guidance and strength for the whole team throughout the period. The Sai Organisation is extremely happy that Bhagavan gave them this opportunity to serve their brethren and seek His grace and blessings for similar future projects.

