



Sanathana Sarathi



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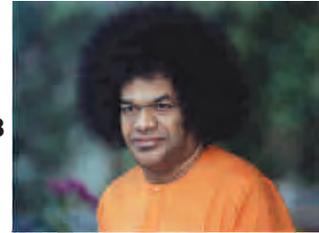
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"One who realises his true identity is an educated person in the real sense. People enquire, "Who are you?" "Who is he?", etc., but they do not ask, "Who am I?" Man may acquire encyclopaedic knowledge about everything in this world, but of what use is it if he does not know who he really is?"

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Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



- 6th Oct. - 12th Oct. Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna
- 12th November Global Akhanda Bhajan
(12th Nov. 6 p.m. to 13th Nov. 6 p.m.)
- 19th November Ladies Day
- 20th, 21st and 24th Nov. 8th World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations
- 22nd November..... 24th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning
- 23rd November..... 80th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba





EXPERIENCE YOUR INNATE DIVINITY

The Effulgent Lord who shines in every atom and pervades the entire universe will protect you always. He is the Omnipotent Lord of Parthi who will grant you Bhakti (devotion), and will certainly help you in all your endeavours.

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

MAN THINKS THAT HIS survival depends upon worldly possessions like food, raiment, shelter and wealth. But this is not true. The survival of man is dependent only on God's grace. There are many wealthy people in this world. Can they survive without God's grace? It is a fact that none can achieve anything in this world without the grace of God. Hence, first and foremost man should contemplate on God.

Educare Manifests Latent Divinity

One may read a number of books, acquire many high degrees and visit a number of countries, but these cannot help one to earn God's grace. People today are engaged in acquiring bookish knowledge. They feel very proud of their high degrees. They think that acquiring bookish knowledge is real education. No, that is not so. They forget that people in the past led a happier and better life without bookish knowledge. What is the use of that education which is devoid of educare? What is educare? Educare is that which brings out the latent divinity of man. Divinity is also known as consciousness. It is only because of the consciousness present in him that every individual is able to

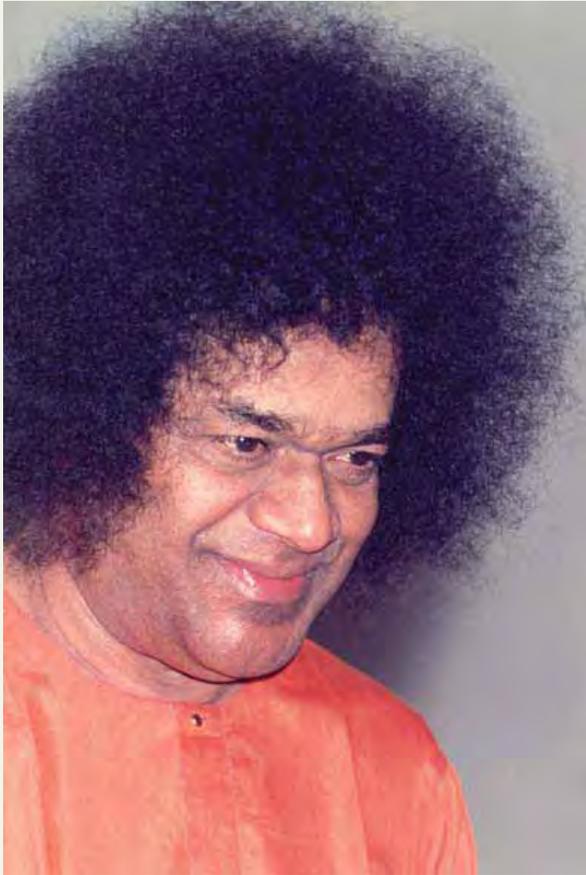
acquire knowledge of the world around him. But, unfortunately, no one is able to recognise this all-pervading consciousness. In fact, it is only this consciousness that is protecting every human being. In spite of their education and scholarship, people are

One who realises non-duality is a real Manava (human being). Humanity lies in transcending duality. Hence, give up duality and experience the bliss of unity. In fact, unity is divinity and divinity is immanent in you. As long as you are under the influence of duality, you are not able to realise unity. Realise unity, develop unity and spread unity in the entire world. Unity alone brings purity and purity is true love. You will be able to understand everything in the realm of spirituality only when you develop pure love.

not able to realise this truth. Education based merely on bookish learning is negative and artificial. People go to



foreign countries to acquire such artificial education. What is the use of acquiring such education? Instead, everyone should strive to acquire educare. There is no need to go anywhere to acquire it. It is immanent in every human being. Unity of thought, word and deed connotes educare.



one's true nature. If you ask someone, "Sir! Where do you come from?", he may reply, "I am from India". That reply is negative in the sense that it limits one to a particular country or place. The real 'I' is to be explored. That 'I' is the real source. The reply that he comes from India refers to the body. The body must have travelled from India. But the consciousness is all-pervading. Without realising the source, if one simply

One may acquire a lot of wealth and become a millionaire with the help of bookish knowledge and high academic degrees. But ultimately, people will give value and veneration to a realised soul and not to the one who has accumulated enormous wealth. As long as the body exists, people will call you a rich person or an emperor. Emperor is just a name; this is not your true identity. The reality is the fundamental 'I', which is the same in all living beings.

One who realises his true identity is an educated person in the real sense. People enquire, "Who are you?" "Who is he?", etc., but they do not ask, "Who am I?" Man may acquire encyclopaedic knowledge about everything in this world, but of what use is it if he does not know who he really is? Real education is that which concerns itself with enquiring into

states that he comes from this place or that place, it is not the correct answer. One should know the source. When someone asks questions, "Who are you?" The correct answer would be, "I am I". We often say, this is my body, this is my mind, this is my intellect, etc. Then who am 'I'? One should know this real 'I'. It is the source. Nowadays, a lot of research is being conducted into the nature of the



mind. Whatever research one may conduct, one has to understand that the basic quality of the mind is its unsteadiness. The mind is like a mad monkey and the body is like a water bubble. You are not this mad monkey. You are not this water bubble. The name given to the human race is “mankind”. But today that kindness is gone and mankind has become monkey mind. Kindness and compassion are nowhere to be seen in human beings today.

Realise the Fundamental ‘I’

When there are no thoughts, there will be no words either. Divinity is beyond thoughts and words. Man should transcend the mind to realise his innate divinity. Realising one’s innate divinity is educare. This innate divinity in man is also referred to as the Atma. Without realising the nature of the Atma one cannot understand the nature of the body. Educare helps one to realise the nature of the Atma or the Self. As long as you identify yourself with the individual ‘I’, you cannot understand your true identity. It is only when you shed attachment to the individual ‘I’ and develop the feeling of equanimity can you understand the nature of the Atma or the fundamental ‘I’. This Atma Tattwa (principle of the Self) is equally present in every being. This is the fundamental principle. It is only because of this fundamental principle that every living being acquires value. One has to recognise this fundamental principle. Only then does one deserve to be called a human being. In this world, birds and beasts live along with human beings. Man can be differentiated from birds and beasts only when he realises the fundamental ‘I’ which is the Atma Tattwa. Since ancient

It is true that secular education is necessary for one’s living in this world. But one has to go beyond this level and explore into the realm of consciousness that leads and motivates every living being. Consciousness is present equally in every human being right from a pauper to a millionaire.

times, people in India have been striving to realise this fundamental ‘I’ which is present in all beings. Life is present everywhere.

Man today has lost his peace. There is restlessness everywhere. In fact, the whole world is in a state of turmoil. People are facing great difficulties and worries in their life since their awareness is limited to their body. This body consciousness makes their life artificial. It does not reveal their true Self. One has to strive to realise the fundamental ‘I’. Human body is ephemeral and is bound to perish one day or the other. When we speak of ‘I’, it should not be limited to the ephemeral human body, but to the fundamental ‘I’.

The body is made up of five elements and is bound to perish sooner or later but the indweller has neither birth nor death. The indweller is verily God Himself.

(Telugu Poem)

Deha (body) with which we identify ourselves saying ‘I’ is subject to birth and death again and again. But Dehi (indweller) is the eternal Devadeva



(God). While the vesture of Deha has birth and death, Dehi is beyond birth and death and is eternal. It shines in every being in the form of consciousness.

Consciousness has neither birth nor death. It has neither beginning nor end. It is present in all beings as the eternal witness.
(Telugu Poem)

When a beggar stands in front of your house seeking alms by saying *Bhavathi Bhiksham Dehi* (give me alms), he actually reminds you of your true nature, i.e., Dehi (indweller). The word Dehi refers to divinity. True education is that which gives us the realisation of Dehi. Education is not limited to reading of books and gathering bookish knowledge. Many times I ask Goldstein and Narendra Reddy as to why they publish so many books. Bookish knowledge enables one to merely eke out a livelihood. But there is something more to this bookish knowledge and livelihood, which all of you have to pursue.

*Can you call all those who know how to read and write educated?
Can one be called educated merely for acquiring degrees?
Can you call it education which does not confer virtues?
If education is just for a living, don't we find birds and beasts carrying on their lives?*
(Telugu Poem)

Transcend Body Consciousness

One may acquire a lot of wealth and become a millionaire with the help of bookish knowledge and high academic degrees. But ultimately, people will give value and veneration to a realised soul and not to the one who has accumulated

enormous wealth. As long as the body exists, people will call you a rich person or an emperor. Emperor is just a name; this is not your true identity. The reality is the fundamental 'I', which is the same in all living beings. If you do not know the fundamental 'I', then all other knowledge acquired by you is a mere waste.

The fundamental 'I' is present in you, in him and in every individual. Here is a small example. Suppose you ask, "Who is the doctor?", the doctor will answer, "I am the doctor." In this example, the doctor identifies himself with his body and says, "I am the doctor." But he forgets about the fundamental 'I' present in him. God is present in all as stated in the Vedas: *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings) and *Isavasyam Idam Sarvam* (the entire universe is permeated by God). Different varieties of sweets like Mysore Pak, Gulab Jamoon, Laddu, Khova, etc., are prepared. Names are different, but the fundamental ingredient (sugar) in all these sweets is the same. Similarly, the same Atma Tattwa is present in every human being and, in fact, in every living being. One who realises this truth is the happiest person. It is true that secular education is necessary for one's living in this world. But one has to go beyond this level and explore the realm of consciousness that leads and motivates every living being. Consciousness is present equally in every human being right from a pauper to a millionaire. Man should attain this state of consciousness. This principle of consciousness is changeless and eternal. People in ancient times strove to attain that state and therefore they were aptly referred to as yogis. Who



is a yogi? A yogi is one who transcends body consciousness and realises his true identity.

Unfortunately, today we are leading our lives, keeping such passing clouds as our true

You are actually a three-in-one entity – the one you think you are, i.e., the body, the one others think you are, the mind, and the one you really are, the Atma. All the three aspects relate to the same individual.

We often come across people who tell with pride that their sons are employed in lucrative jobs in America. As a matter of fact, who is their son? They may say that so and so is their son, keeping in view the physical relationship with someone who has a name and form. Devoid of name and form, who is the son and who is the father? All these names and forms are acquired only after a person is born. As long as the body exists, there is this relationship of son and father. When the body perishes, who is the son and who is the father? Here is another example.

You perform the marriage of your son and bring a girl into your house. You now say, she is your daughter-in-law. Before her marriage to your son, who was this daughter-in-law? The relationship did not exist before her marriage and would cease to exist once you leave this world. It exists only for the middle period. Such relationships are like passing clouds.

relationships. This is not the proper thing to do. All these relationships are worldly and physical. You consider someone as your relative, friend or foe on the basis of your physical relationship with him. Do not give importance to these physical relationships.

It is only when you rise above these physical relationships that you will realise the Antaryami (indweller). You



When there are no thoughts, there will be no words either. Divinity is beyond thoughts and words. Man should transcend the mind to realise his innate divinity. Realising one's innate divinity is educare. This innate divinity in man is also referred to as the Atma. Without realising the nature of the Atma one cannot understand the nature of the body. Educare helps one to realise the nature of the Atma or the Self.



may enquire from any of our boys, "Where is God?", they will spontaneously answer, "God is everywhere. In fact, you are God." Their relationship with God is beyond the level of the body.

We lead a life based on physical relationships. But these are not permanent. Such relationships exist today, but may cease to exist tomorrow. As long as there is life in the body, you say, 'I'. Once the body perishes, then who will say 'I'? When you enquire into the matter deeply, everything in this objective world ultimately reduces itself to zero. All that we see in this world are zeros. Unfortunately, today we consider the zero as hero. But you are not zero, you are a hero. You are the fundamental 'I' which is eternal. That fundamental principle is the hero. It is present in every individual, but it is not noticed. It is the inner motivator.

We often refer to our human body consisting of flesh, bones, muscles and blood as 'I'. Our physical body is not eternal. It is like the passing clouds which come and go. Considering this transient body as eternal, we struggle hard to amass physical comforts. This is not correct. The body must be employed for the purpose for which it has been given. Man is born to realise the eternal truth. We should not lead our life based on Dehabhimana (attachment to the body). Even educated people have attachment to the body. It is only because of our excessive attachment to the body that we are exposed to sorrows and difficulties. Hence, shed attachment to the ephemeral body and cultivate attachment to that which is eternal.

Unity, Purity, Divinity are Goals of Life

As long as you are attached to the physical body, you cannot realise the

Atma Tattwa. In fact, the Atma does not have any attachment. The Atma is present in you, in Me and in every living being. *Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma* (one Atma dwells in all beings). Realising the nature of the all-pervading Atma is true spirituality. Spirituality is not limited to rituals like worship, religious vows and Bhajans. When someone asked Sita, "Where is your Rama?" She replied, "Rama is always with me." What people generally refer to is the physical body of Rama, the son of King Dasaratha. In fact, the real Rama is not related to any individual. He is neither the son of Dasaratha nor the son-in-law of Janaka. He is immanent in every living being. Relations like daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law are for the body. "Where does your uncle come from? Where does your aunt come from? Where do you come from?" When you ask these questions, nobody will be able to give the correct answer. The truth is that all people come from the same source. When one realises this truth, there will be no more worry or sorrow. Hence, one has to realise this unity. When you attain the knowledge of unity, you will know everything else. Bereft of this, you are likely to follow diversity. Do not be such a follower; be an ideal man. You are the Atma. Do not develop attachment to the world. Instead, cultivate spiritual attachment. When you live in harmony with your fellow human beings, you will derive happiness. Then you will experience unity between man and man. A real devotee is

one who realises this unity. Unity leads to purity, which in turn provides the experience of divinity. One who does not experience unity, purity and



divinity becomes a victim of body attachment and is trapped in the endless cycle of birth and death. You should identify yourself with the indweller which is beyond birth and death and without a beginning and an end.

Embodiments of Love!

Give up body attachment and realise unity and divinity that are all-pervading. That is real Sadhana. Today people undertake Sadhana, thinking all the while of something else. As a result, they are unable to achieve their goal. The fault lies with you and not with Jagat (world). When you correct your mistakes and do Sadhana in the right way, then you will be able to realise unity in diversity. Many people live long even for 100 years. But they are unable to experience unity. Instead, they see duality all their life. One who realises non-duality is a real Manava (human being). Humanity lies in transcending duality. Hence, give up duality

and experience the bliss of unity. In fact, unity is divinity and divinity is immanent in you. As long as you are under the influence of duality, you are not able to realise unity. Realise unity, develop unity and spread unity in the entire world. Unity alone brings purity and purity is true love. You will be able to understand everything in the realm of spirituality only when you develop pure love. I will take some other opportunity to explain in greater detail the concept of pure love. If you entangle yourself in worldly attachments and still aspire for divinity, how is it possible? Hence, give up attachment and attain unity.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Prema Muditha Manase Kaho ...*”)

– From Bhagavan’s Inaugural Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 3rd September 2005 on the occasion of International Sai Medical Conference.

**SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

Admission to Class I (Boys and Girls) and Class XI (Boys only), of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam Post., (Anantapur Dist., A.P.), 515134 will take place in June 2006. It is an English Medium, wholly residential school.

Prospectus and Admission Forms can be had from the Principal from 01-12-2005 on cash or payment remittance of Rs. 50/- through D.D. drawn on SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam (code no: 2786) in favour of the Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, with a Self Addressed Rs. 20/- stamped cover of 15 cm x 24 cm.

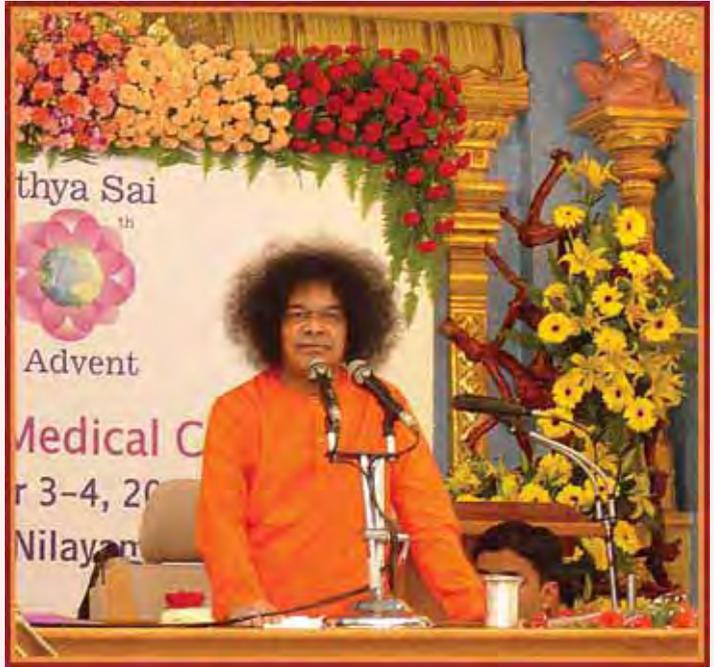
Last date for issuing the forms from the Principal’s office is 15th February 2006 and last date of receiving the forms in this office is 1st March 2006.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Principal

INTERNATIONAL SAI MEDICAL CONFERENCE

AS PART OF 80TH Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, an international medical conference was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 3rd and 4th September 2005. Organised jointly by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of India and the International Medical Committee of the Prasanthi Council, this was the first conference in the world which focused on the challenges and outcomes of delivering medical care with love, compassion and empathy to the suffering humanity. The theme of the Conference was: "Sri Sathya Sai Healthcare Mission – Sai Ideal Healthcare." More than 900 delegates from 27 countries of the world participated in this Conference which included internationally renowned healthcare experts, leaders in medical education, health administrators, nursing staff, medical equipment suppliers and government officers. They deliberated upon the ideals and principles laid down by Bhagavan to provide ideal healthcare to all, and resolved to further the Divine Mission of Bhagavan of humanising and spiritualising this noble profession so as to check the maladies of commercialisation and materialism which are afflicting it today. Bhagavan graced both the Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions of the Conference in Sai Kulwant Hall by His Divine Presence and gave an illuminating Discourse in the Inaugural Session, providing



Bhagavan delivering His Divine Discourse in the Inaugural Session of the Conference in Sai Kulwant Hall.

valuable guidelines and insights on the core issues of the Conference.

Inauguration of Medical Exhibition on Global Sai Health Mission

The Conference started with the inauguration of the medical exhibition by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on 3rd September 2005 at 8.10 a.m. by lighting the sacred lamp. Bhagavan saw the entire exhibition paying close attention to the exhibits, which showcased the work done in relation to Sri Sathya Sai Healthcare Mission worldwide by Sri Sathya Sai Organisations and Sri Sathya Sai Hospitals. The exhibition featured movies and 198 posters depicting medical camps done all over the world, tsunami disaster relief work done in Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, and Sainet Project, a malaria





Panoramic view of all the countries where medical camps were organised by the overseas Sai Organisations.

prevention programme in Kenya. After its inauguration by Bhagavan, over 7000 people visited the exhibition. All were inspired and touched by the work being done by the global Sai Health Mission.

Inaugural Session

After inaugurating the medical exhibition, Bhagavan came to the Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.40 a.m. and formally inaugurated the Conference by lighting the sacred lamp on the dais. The proceedings of the Conference began thereafter in the Hall, which was aesthetically decorated for this event of far reaching importance. After the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman, Prasanthi Council delivered his welcome address and spoke about Bhagavan's Healthcare Mission, its role as a solution to healthcare crises in many countries and the need in the world at this time for humane medicine. Exhorting the delegates to observe the spiritual principles laid down by Bhagavan, Dr. Goldstein narrated how his own life and physical health had changed for the better by adhering to the advice



of Bhagavan on healthy lifestyle choices. After this, Dr. A.N. Safaya, Director, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences spoke on "Introduction to Sai Health Mission". Dr. Safaya highlighted the significance of Bhagavan's health initiatives in rural India and mentioned some of the recent path-breaking projects undertaken by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences in

advancing compassionate and spiritual patient-care. This was followed by a talk by Dr. Alan Gradman, Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburg, USA. Dr. Gradman recounted how he and his practice had changed after he incorporated



Delegates to the International Sai Medical Conference in Sai Kulwant Hall.

Bhagavan's teachings in his life and work. He stressed the importance of compassion and human values in



teaching and practising medicine. After this, Bhagavan blessed the delegates and devotees with His Divine Discourse exhorting them to transcend body consciousness, know their reality and realise the unity of all mankind. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.)

Plenary Sessions

The afternoon session of the Conference was held in the auditorium of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The first speaker of this session was Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman of the International Medical Committee of the Prasanthi Council who presented an overview of all the healthcare service activities of the overseas Sri Sathya Sai Organisations including medical and veterinary camps together with disaster relief work in the wake of the 2004 tsunami. Dr. Reddy said: "The whole purpose of human life as Swami said this morning is to know who we are. By His very Sankalpa, Swami can cure incurable diseases, He can make the lame walk and the blind to see. He has cancelled incurable cancers and He has raised the dead to life. That is not the purpose why Swami has come. The purpose why Swami has come is to raise our consciousness so that we realise who we are. He makes us realise our innate divinity, manifest that divinity and radiate that joy and love to one and all. That is the reason why Swami has come." The second speaker was Dr. Kanwaljeet S. Anand, Professor of Paediatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences who spoke about the four pillars of paediatric care, namely, Prema, Purity, Prevention and Pain relief. Thereafter, Sri Kalyan

Ray, Senior Director of United Nations made his presentation on the Sainet Project, an extensive malaria prevention programme undertaken in Kenya. He delineated the role of government and non-government organisations partnering to provide effective large-scale preventive care. The final speaker of the afternoon session was Dr. Kishore Udipi, Research Director, Medtronic Vascular, Santa Rosa, California. He discussed the role of biomedical and pharmaceutical companies in making technological advances in the field of healthcare.

The morning session on 4th September 2005 began in the auditorium with the presentation of Dr. Neelam Desai, Head of Department, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Puttaparthi. She presented astounding data on the types and numbers of surgeries carried out in the Super Speciality Hospital since its opening in 1991. "The work done in Swami's hospitals is a testament that Sai Ideal Healthcare is here and now", she said. The next presentation was made by Dr. A.S. Hegde, Chairman, Department of Neurosciences, SSSIHMS, Whitefield. Presenting data from the Neurosurgical Department, Dr. Hegde cited a mortality rate of only 1.39 per cent, which is far lower than that experienced by the most renowned neurosurgeons in the whole world. In the next presentation, Dr. Ramchandiran Cooppan, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School cautioned about the imminent global epidemic of diabetes. He stressed the importance of preventive measures including



nutrition, diet and exercise. After this, Dr. Keki Mistry, Director, D.Y. Patil Dental College and Hospital, New Mumbai presented a comprehensive overview of the medical and veterinary service activities provided by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of India.

The morning session concluded with a presentation by Dr. Anil Nanda, Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centre, USA. He stressed the importance of not getting carried away by the available technology, but to treat the patient with utmost care and reverence. A new line was added by Dr. Nanda to the Sanskrit axiom “Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava...” to include “Patient Devo Bhava” – revere the mother as God, the father as God, and now treat the patient as God.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session of the Conference was held in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 4th September 2005 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The session began with a speech by Dr. Michael Rakoff, a paediatrician and healthcare consultant, who outlined his experience of applying human values to the practice of medicine. The second speaker Dr. Venkatraman Sadanand, Fellow in Paediatric Neuro-surgery, Chicago, USA said: “We have to love our patients - love, love, love till it hurts. Love till there is nothing left of our body. All that we can see is the God within us. “

In their concluding remarks, Dr. Goldstein and Dr. Safaya stressed the need for more visibility of all the good work done in the healthcare field by

Sri Sathya Sai Organisations so that more people could find inspiration to carry out such noble selfless service.

Summary

This Conference was a testimony to the fact that Sri Sathya Sai Healthcare Mission was rapidly taking roots in several countries throughout the world. Inspired by the ideals set by Bhagavan to provide the best healthcare free of cost to most disadvantaged sections of society, the delegates resolved to make Sai Ideal Healthcare globally achievable and sustainable.

The delegates felt that this was a timely conference and the first of its kind and scope. In present time, many countries were experiencing serious problems with healthcare delivery making healthcare a hot topic of their political agenda. Bhagavan’s Message and Healthcare Mission provided a different perspective to those issues by making medicine more humane and patient-centred.

The theme and delivery of the Conference is reflected in an excerpt from Bhagavan’s Discourse in August 1976:

“Look upon your patients as your own kith and kin, as your special guests and as your closest friends, and attend to them lovingly and with unflinching care. I call upon you to maintain this attitude in every situation.”

Delegates from all over the world took this message and experience to their homelands and resolved to put it into practice in their life and work. It is hoped that their renewed approach to healthcare will undoubtedly be brought to the attention of the rest of the world.



PURE BODY AND PURE THOUGHTS ATTRACT DIVINE GRACE

If one keeps awake the whole night of Sivarathri by playing cards, can it be called Jagarana (vigil)? If a fisherman watches intently to catch fish in a pond, can it be termed concentration?

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

MANY PEOPLE PLAY CARDS throughout night, thinking that they are spending their time in the best possible manner. Once I asked an officer, "How did you spend your time last night?" He immediately got up and

enjoyed very much. I did not have even a wink of sleep." I questioned him again, "Yesterday was the holy festival of Sivarathri. What benefit did you derive by spending your time in this manner throughout night?" The officer gave a strange reply, "Since I was

God does not need anything from a devotee except devotion and complete surrender. He expects from him sacred body, sacred words, sacred vision and selfless actions. When the devotee offers these things, God gives Himself to that devotee. Man's body, mind and actions should always be pure, so that God is attracted towards him.



answered, "Swami! I spent the time very happily."

Do not Resort to Perversion in the Name of Sadhana

I further enquired what sort of happiness he derived. He replied, "I played cards throughout night and

busy playing cards throughout night, I was free from all worries. I was happily spending time and observing vigil." Can this be called vigil? Can one-pointed gaze of a fisherman to catch fish from a



pond be called concentration? Can such concentration lead to Mukti (liberation)?

Some foolish people resort to such acts of perversion and call it Thanmayatwa (transcendental state) and concentration. It is difficult to imagine the extent up to which man degenerates himself by taking to bad ways and by resorting to such perversions! The body has not been given to man for this purpose. What is it that is contained in the human body? It is full of sweat, urine, flesh, blood and foul smelling waste matter. It is prone to decay and disintegration. Every second, it generates bad odour and waste matter. What is there to be proud of such a decadent body? One has to realise the true nature of the human body and make the best use of it. Do you know why God has given us the human body? Is it for indulging in evil acts and wasting the precious life? No, no. The body is given to man so that he may use it to attain divinity; not for misusing it. You should realise for yourself what sacred purpose it is to be used for. From the time you get up from the bed till you go to bed at night, your time is spent in worldly pursuits. You do not have any time to think of God.

Human body is a sacred instrument given by God and it has to be sanctified by contemplating on God. One should think of God at least one or two times in a day. What should we do to derive happiness and joy? The most appropriate answer to this question is that we should engage all our senses in constant contemplation of God. The eyes should see all that is sacred. The ears should be engaged in hearing good words. The tongue should speak sweet and noble words. It should chant the divine name constantly.

We should keep the body pure. Not only that, our thoughts should also be pure. We should spread the message of purity and cleanliness among our associates to make purity prevalent in society. You should have the company of only those who are pure in body and thoughts. Then your purity will shine forth with its natural effulgence. This will earn you the grace of God.

Thus, every limb of the body should be sanctified by putting it to proper use. Can the loss of body consciousness of a heavily drunk intoxicated person be called Thanmayatwa? If one abstains from food on account of a quarrel with one's wife, can it be called fasting? Man should make use of concentration and meditation for his spiritual advancement.

Keep your Body Pure and Natural

Dear students!

Normally, I do not like to speak about My personal life. However, I am revealing certain aspects of My daily routine with the hope that they will serve as guidelines for you. I keep My mouth absolutely clean by brushing My teeth and cleaning My tongue at night and early morning. I clean My tongue thoroughly on all its sides with a tongue cleaner. I strictly adhere to My routine so that My tongue, mouth and teeth



are always clean. I feel happy only when My tongue and mouth are perfectly clean. One experiences sacredness of the body by keeping the tongue and mouth totally clean. You might have observed Me talking to a number of people everyday. I will spend even 20 minutes instead of 10 minutes talking to those who keep their tongue clean and whose mouth does not emit bad odour. On the other hand, I do not talk to those with bad odour even for two minutes. During our sleep, bacteria are generated and they stick to our tongue and teeth on all sides of the mouth. They have to be removed by proper brushing of the teeth and a thorough cleaning of the tongue and mouth. Only then can we be healthy and happy.

Apart from physical cleaning, the tongue must be engaged in speaking sacred and pure words. Following this principle, I put My tongue to proper use by engaging Myself in sacred talk. It is only after I clean My body properly that I come out of My room. By the time I come out, a boy looking after the kitchen brings Ragi Ganji (gruel made of a coarse grain). I partake of the gruel and feel very happy and energetic. Except this Ragi gruel, I do not take anything else in the morning. I do not have any tiffin or breakfast. After taking the gruel, I once again clean My mouth. Then, I drink some fresh water and come down. Thereafter, I spend some time happily with devotees, giving Darshan and talking to some. I also grant interviews to selected people. In this way, I talk to people in a sacred way with total purity of My body.

There is one important point which should be borne in mind by people who are called for interview. While I enter the interview room with such a pure and sacred body, some people come

there with unclean mouth after smoking. I do not like such people in the interview room and ask them to go out immediately. The wife of a smoker may plead with Me, "Swami! I am Your devotee. If You send my husband out, what is there for me to talk to You?" I firmly reply, "Whether it is husband or son, whoever he may be, nobody should enter My room emitting bad odour from his mouth and body. You tell him to go out, clean his mouth and come back. Then I shall speak to him." Such people will go out immediately, clean themselves and come back in ten minutes. Then I speak to them endearingly.

Man should always be natural and pure. He should not become artificial. Some people wear gaudy dresses and apply perfumes to their body. But, of what use is it to apply perfumes when the body is full of dirt and bad odour? We should keep the body pure. Not only that, our thoughts should also be pure. We should spread the message of purity and cleanliness among our associates to make purity prevalent in society. You should have the company of only those who are pure in body and thoughts. Then your purity will shine forth with its natural effulgence. This will earn you the grace of God. My body always emits natural effulgence and divine fragrance. In order to set ideals to others, I always maintain My body and mind in a pure and unsullied condition. The body must always be kept in a clean and fit condition since it is a sacred instrument provided by God. I give utmost importance to the cleanliness of the body so that others would also like to emulate Me. By following My ideals, they would not only earn respect in society but the grace of God also.



Siva is called Bhola Sankara. He does no decorations or ostentations. He keeps his body absolutely sacred and pure. His piety and purity are the source of attraction for his devotees. Parvati did intense penance to marry Lord Easwara. She meditated with total purity on the divine form of Lord Easwara who is Nitya (eternal), Shuddha (unsullied), Buddha (enlightened), Mukta (liberated), Nirmala Swarupina (embodiment of purity). Pleased with her deep devotion and total purity, Siva accepted her. At an auspicious time, they were married in a sacred manner in the presence of Parvati's parents. Some people who participated in this joyous wedding wanted to know what made Siva accept Parvati. Parvati told them that she could win the heart of Siva as she was pure and natural in body and mind. Siva and Parvati are offered worship and reverence by devotees.

Markandeya was a great devotee of Lord Siva. (Bhagavan then narrated the story of Markandeya's penance and total surrender to Lord Siva.) God does not need anything from a devotee except devotion and complete surrender. He expects from him sacred body, sacred words, sacred vision and selfless actions. When the devotee offers these things, God gives Himself to that devotee. Man's body, mind and actions should always be pure, so that God is attracted towards him. God's grace cannot be attained by different forms of worship or other rituals. Only complete purity and total surrender can earn God's grace. But people are too much involved in mundane pursuits, and do not strive for it. I recite the following poem frequently to remind man of the futility of struggling for merely filling his belly:

Oh! Man! You struggle hard for the sake of filling your belly. You acquire many forms of knowledge in various fields; examine and enquire for yourself what great happiness you have achieved by spending all the time from dawn to dusk in acquiring worldly knowledge and earning wealth, while forgetting God.

(Telugu Poem)

I always sanctify My time by engaging Myself in activities that are beneficial to society. Right from My childhood, I cultivated good habits and followed strict regimen. I have already explained this in a poem on earlier occasions also:

*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,
Go to school and study diligently,
Earn a good name,
Don't move out when it is raining,
And never go near the ditches,
Take part in games,
Run and play.
If you abide by all these rules
You will have both health and wealth.*

(Telugu Poem)

In those days, people were not used to tiffin or breakfast. Cooked rice was soaked in buttermilk on the previous night and taken as breakfast next morning with a little salt.

Pushpagiri Fair and Scout Camp

Many boys keep their study table disorganised, with their books strewn all over. They make it clumsy and dirty. But I used to keep My books



always neat and tidy. Whatever I am relating today is based on My personal experience only. In those days, very few boys were in a position to purchase new books when they were promoted to a higher class. Every four or five years, the textbooks were changed. I always used to keep My books neat. Hence, boys studying in the lower standard and promoted to the higher standard at the end of the academic year used to take My books. During a particular year, a poor Harijan boy approached Me and asked for My books. I showed My books to him. In those days, there was high syllabus for subjects like history, geography, civics, etc., even for lower classes. On seeing My books, he commented, "Raju! You do not seem to have touched Your books even once. They appear brand new." The cost of My books totalled to twelve rupees, but the poor boy was not in a position to pay even that much. Then I told him, "My dear! I am selected for the scout camp by our teacher. I have to purchase khaki dress and shoes. Besides, there are some other items of expenditure. I don't have money to meet that expenditure. Nor would I like to ask My parents. What I need at the moment is five rupees. Therefore, pay Me five rupees and take away the books." The boy felt very happy and paid the required amount. In those days, currency notes were very rare. Therefore, he brought the entire amount in small coins packed in a piece of cloth. It was tied in an old cloth, which gave way unable to bear the weight of the coins. The coins were strewn all over the room, making a big sound. On hearing the sound, the lady of the house came there and enquired, "Where did You get all this money? Did You steal from

my trunk?" So saying, she slapped Me. The poor boy standing there explained to her, "Mother! I gave those coins to Raju towards the cost of His books which I purchased from Him." She disbelieved him and remarked, "One thief is the witness of the other thief." The boy ventured to say, "Raju never tells a lie. He always speaks the truth." However, she took away the entire money.

Next day, all My classmates were going to Pushpagiri, where a big cattle fair was going to be held. I did not have the money to pay the fare. So, I pretended that I had stomach-ache and so was not able to go with them. Early next morning, I set out on My journey on foot. I walked a long distance and before I could join My classmates, they had left for their breakfast. As for Myself, I did not have even a single paisa in My pocket. What could I eat without money? I thought I would manage somehow without eating anything. I purposely avoided My classmates lest they should question Me whether I had had breakfast. They were searching for Me. There was a cement trough nearby in which water was stored for bathing the cows and buffaloes. I was feeling very tired, hungry and thirsty, having walked all the way. But I could not help. Then, I noticed that someone had left behind a packet of Beedis (country cigarettes) and a one anna coin near the trough there. The Beedis were, of course, of no use to Me. Therefore, I threw them away. I took the one anna coin and exchanged it for smaller coins. Four Botlu in those days were equivalent to one anna. As I was returning, I noticed a person sitting on the roadside and inviting passersby to participate in a game of stakes. No doubt, this was a sort



of gambling, which I would advise everyone to refrain from. But I was completely helpless at that time. Every time, I was winning and getting double the amount of the stake. Thus, I played the game till I could make twelve annas. Then I thought, that was the end of the game and returned with the money already earned. Since I was feeling hungry, I bought three Dosas with one Bottu (Paisa). Thus, I managed with two Botlu a day eating Dosas. I joined the scout duty

stolen by somebody. Now I had no money to buy even one Dosa. My classmates were very much distressed at My plight. They were in fact crying. They pleaded with Me to eat at least one Dosa, which they would buy for Me. But I flatly refused. I told them that I was not hungry, since I did not like to avail Myself of others' help. Especially, I did not wish to

What should we do to derive happiness and joy? The most appropriate answer to this question is that we should engage all our senses in constant contemplation of God. The eyes should see all that is sacred. The ears should be engaged in hearing good words. The tongue should speak sweet and noble words. It should chant the divine name constantly. Thus, every limb of the body should be sanctified by putting it to proper use.



along with My friends. During night, I kept the bundle of coins under My head and slept on the sandy floor. Since I was very much tired, I was lost in sound sleep. Meanwhile, someone noticed the bundle under My head and took it away when I turned to the other side. When I woke up the next day, I noticed that the cloth bundle containing money was

touch others' money. At the end of the camp, we all returned to Kamalapuram.

Another incident happened during My stay at Kamalapuram. At that time, Seshama Raju (Swami's elder brother) had gone for teachers



training to Uravakonda. He came back when I was at Pushpagiri. When I returned from the camp, he was furious at My absence from the house. Seething with anger, he shouted at Me, saying, “Your sister-in-law was put to great hardship due to Your absence because she had to fetch water besides all other household chores.” At that time, he had a ruler with him. He beat Me hard with that ruler. As a result, My hand was swollen and it was giving Me a lot of pain. I did not reveal it to anybody. I tied a bandage Myself with a wet cloth. The next day, Seshama Raju’s son died. He gave a telegram to Pedda Venkama Raju (Swami’s father). Pedda Venkama Raju immediately rushed to see Seshama Raju. The Griham Abbayi (Pedda Venkama Raju) started from Puttaparthi and reached Bukkapatnam, and from there he came to Kamalapuram. When he reached Seshama Raju’s house, he found the family immersed in sorrow. I too had to pretend to be sorrowful, though I am beyond sorrow and joy. Griham Abbayi enquired from Me, why I was having a bandage on My hand. I tried to explain away very casually as if nothing had happened. I told him that there was a small blister on the palm and therefore I put a bandage. Thus, I did not reveal the fact that the pain in My hand was due to the injuries inflicted on Me by Seshama Raju. I never had the habit of complaining against elders. I always tried to protect the dignity and honour of the family. There was a lady belonging to the Vaisya community in the neighbouring house, who used to make her living by preparing Dosas and selling them. She tried to reason with Griham Abbayi, saying, “What! Venkama Raju! I know you can get Raju

educated at your place. Why should you put Him to so much trouble by keeping Him under the care of His elder brother at such a distant place? You do not know how much the boy is suffering here. He has to fetch drinking water daily from a distant place carrying two big pitchers with the help of a Kavadi (a bamboo stick with pitchers on either side) on His shoulders.” Thus, she narrated several incidents about My hardship and suffering.

Griham Abbayi was deeply moved on hearing My plight. He immediately called Me and said, “My dear son! You start immediately and come along with me. Let us go back to Puttaparthi.” He loved Me very much. In fact, all the family members loved Me. He lamented, “I never beat You till date. You are undergoing so much suffering here.” When he pressed Me hard to follow him to Puttaparthi immediately, I tried to pacify him, saying, “It is not proper for Me to leave at this juncture since Seshama Raju’s family is in a sorrowful state due to the loss of their son. You please go to Puttaparthi. Later, I will join you.” Griham Abbayi shed tears of joy for My sense of responsibility and noble feelings. He said, “Dear son! I have never come across small children explaining such noble thoughts to elders. How noble and great are Your qualities! You are teaching me such great things. How sweet and wise Your words are! Your nobility alone will protect You.” Saying thus, he left for Puttaparthi. However, ever since he reached Puttaparthi, he used to send messages daily requesting Me to come to Puttaparthi.

He was remembering all those complaints made to him by our Vaisya neighbour about My difficult



life at Kamalapuram and was feeling very sorry for My plight.

There was a businessman by name Kotte Subbanna in the town. He had a provision shop in which some Ayurvedic medicines were also sold. Once, he brought a new Ayurvedic medicine by name Bala Bhaskara in his shop. It could fetch him a good profit if popularised. As he knew I was good at composing poetry, he requested Me to write a song describing the qualities of this medicine. I agreed to his request, but asked for some more details about the medicine. Then I composed a song about the efficacy of the medicine. I gathered a few children of My age to go round the nearby villages with placards in their hands, singing the song composed by Me. The song ran as follows:

There it is! There it is! Oh, children! come, come!

*There is the medicine Bala Bhaskara;
Be it an upset stomach or a swollen leg;
Be it a joint pain or flatulence;
Be it any ailment, known or unknown;
Take this Bala Bhaskara for an instant cure!*

*If you wish to know where it is available,
There is the shop of Kotte Subbanna;
It is in that shop that you can pick it up.
Come here boys! come here!*

*It is an excellent tonic
Prepared by the famous physician
Gopalacharya himself,
Come here boys! come here!*

(Telugu Song)

By the time this sale campaign was over, all the stock of the medicine in Subbanna's shop was exhausted. He felt very happy. Then he called Me

and expressed his joy saying, "My dear Raju! Due to Your efforts, all the stock of the medicine in my shop was sold out in no time. I am grateful to You."

My Body is Free from all Diseases

Once during My stay at Uravakonda, I started behaving in an extraordinary manner. People around Me thought that I was mad or possessed by a demon. I acted like that and used to talk to Myself. Many people offered suggestions to get Me cured of this 'strange disease'. At the end, all the people unanimously decided that I should be taken to a Bhutha Vaidya (witch doctor) for curing Me of an alleged possession by a demon. The sorcerer shaved off My head and inflicted two deep cuts on My scalp in the form of an X. Then he poured lime juice on the bleeding cuts. It gave Me great pain and an unbearable burning sensation. But I did not give vent to My feelings; I silently suffered all this torture. In fact, I was laughing at his foolish treatment. The sorcerer was furious that I was smiling all the time when he was putting Me to so much torture. So, he decided to put Me to more suffering. He brought Kalikam (a sort of poisonous substance) and applied it to My eyes. Thus, he put Me to several kinds of torture. Venkamma (Swami's elder sister) who also accompanied Me to this sorcerer's place could not bear to see Me undergoing this suffering. She was always by My side and attended on Me all her life. She therefore ran to Griham Abbayi and pleaded with him, "Father! You don't put Sathya to this inhuman treatment. This cruel man is inflicting great pain and injury on the boy. Enough of torture; take Him away immediately to Puttaparthi."



Thus, I was brought back to Puttaparthi. Ever since that sorcerer shaved off My head till today I did not have a haircut. Some people think that I trim My hair. No, never. My hair grows naturally. Now I am 79 years old. Till today, I have not suffered from any disease. My teeth and eyesight are intact. I will remain in good health even up to 90 years. Till a few years ago, the boys accompanying Me were, in fact, running to catch up with Me. I can still walk very fast but the doctors put a condition that I should not, the reason being that I was operated upon sometime ago when I had a fall. They put a steel rod joining My broken hip bone. That is why I was advised against walking fast. Nevertheless, I have been attending to My daily routine. I have not given up any of My daily activities. I am giving interviews to visitors. I am moving along the Darshan lines, giving Darshan to devotees. There is absolutely no hindrance in My daily activities.

Classmates of Uravakonda School

In the Uravakonda school, Ramesh, Suresh and Myself sat on the same bench in our classroom. While I sat in the middle, Ramesh and Suresh used to sit on My either side. They were not so good in studies. They became worried when examinations approached near. I told them, "I will write answers for the questions on your answer sheets. You just sit silently in the examination hall." All three of us went into the examination hall. Our roll numbers were such that we had to sit at different places in the examination hall quite far from each other. There was no chance at all for us to communicate with each other. My friends were very unhappy and

dejected. I made a plan to help them though it was not the ideal thing to do. First of all, I finished writing My answer sheets within no time. After this, I took additional sheets and wrote the answers to the questions for both Ramesh and Suresh in their handwriting. Then, I kept all the three answer sheets on the table of the examiner.

The result of our examination was announced on the third day. In those days, the examination results were announced soon after the examination; not like the present day when it takes months together to announce the results. All three of us passed in 1st class (*loud applause*). Whatever answers were there in My answer sheets, the same were found in the answer sheets of the other two boys as well. But none could accuse them of copying since our roll numbers were very different and our seats distant from each other. However, our teacher Mahboob Khan realised that I had helped the other boys to perform well in the examination. But he did not reveal it to anyone. Many teachers congratulated us for securing first class in the examination. They shed tears of joy. Thus, I made everyone including My teachers and classmates happy and returned to Puttaparthi. My friends Ramesh and Suresh expressed their wish to accompany Me to Puttaparthi. They, in fact, insisted on following Me. But I advised them not to do so. In this way, I passed My school days in a sacred way. I used to guide and help the fellow students to follow the right path. Never did I waste My time in the school. I always endeavoured to sanctify it by following the path of goodness. I spoke sweetly and softly with everyone.

Today is Durgashtami day. Tomorrow and day after are



Mahanavami and Vijaya Dasami festivals. I have a lot of work to do. I have to talk to the Purohits (priests) who have to conduct the Yajna. Besides, there are other important matters to be attended to. After finishing My work, I will again talk to you. Did I not tell you that students are My property? I care so much for them. If they are happy, I will also be happy (*loud prolonged applause*). I

have a piece of advice for you. Never give up Namasmarana. Do constant Namasmarana wherever you are.

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

– From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 21st October 2004.



Education has been grossly circumscribed and the educational system is polluting the social organism with narrowness and crookedness. So, marked changes have to be made in the system. At present, we have mere book learning. But what is learnt from books has to be confirmed and corrected by practising it in social living. Then only can the knowledge of the kinship between man and man be gained. Thereby learning is transformed into Vidya. Vidya cannot be acquired by merely mastering reading, writing and arithmetic.

ñ Baba

WE HAD THE VISION

- *Manchiraju Thammiraju*

Sri Manchiraju Thammiraju, the mathematics teacher of young Sathya in Uravakonda High School, was one of those blessed persons whom He chose to show His Divinity when He was still a child of 14 years. Here is the first-hand account by the fortunate teacher of what he witnessed in 1940.

AS A BOY OF FOURTEEN, WHEN Baba was still in Uravakonda High School, every Thursday evening, between about 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., He

Sathya used to take out even then as He does now, Vibhuti by a wave of the hand! My 22-year-old daughter had died sometime previously and my wife was in great distress.



The house in Uravakonda where Sathya stayed with His brother Seshama Raju and his family. The house of Sathya's mathematics teacher Sri Manchiraju Thammiraju was situated opposite to this house.

Sathya used to come to my residence and give her long discourses on the problem of life and death, and, thanks to His wise ministrations, she became normal soon. His words full of Prema pacified the agitation of her mind, and restored her devotion to the Lord. On the second Thursday that she offered worship, He gave her Vibhuti and said, "Ammayi! I appreciate your Bhakti; I am pleased; next week, come, I shall give you a gift."

became Shirdi Sai Baba and gave Darshan to hundreds of devotees and answered their prayers. I was a teacher in the High School then and I too took advantage of those Thursdays. 'My student'

That day, He asked her to rise from His Feet when she prostrated. He said,

"Ammayi! I am giving you a piece of the Gerua (ochre cloth) I wore when I entered Samadhi at Shirdi for the last time", and closing His palm for an instant, He opened it to show us a piece of cloth 4 inches square. "Take this and do



Puja to My Name; come next week, I shall give you something more.” He said and sent us away, in great joy, for, while we took leave, He added: “Be happy henceforth, for I shall carry all your burdens.”

The next Thursday, we both went to Him and did Namaskar. That day, He closed His palm and when He opened it, there had materialised a quantity of Akshata or rice grains. “Tie this in the cloth given last week and worship it. You will get mental quiet,” He blessed. “You will not have any cause for grief; I am conferring on you full Bhakti.”

On the 5th Thursday, too, another miracle happened. He told my wife, “Ammayi! Keep a Peeta (low stool) in your house in the Puja room, and I shall be giving you Darshan there itself,” and He made us do it immediately.

We have all read how Krishna with His brother Balarama went to the house of Arjuna and granted Darshan to him and his consort and also showered blessings on them. This Sathya Sai, too, who is the same Krishna and the same Shirdi Sai came to the house of this poor Bhakta and blessed us with a vision of His Mahima (glory); we can never forget the exquisite thrill of that experience. He came on two consecutive days, the Krishna Janmashtami and the Rohini Day. The wonderful experiences of those days have

He then asked us whether we did not desire to see the various Leelas of previous births. When we welcomed the idea enthusiastically, He agreed to show them to us and all the family collected around. He ordered us to watch Him (Would you believe it? You may not, until you yourself experience the same or similar miracles of Baba), and we were thrilled by the Form of Narayana on the Ocean of Milk.

been described by my wife in a poem published in her name Kamesvaramma in the “Sai Sudha” of April 1944 printed by the



Sri Karibasavaswami District Board High School, Uravakonda where Sathya studied. Sri Manchiraju Thammiraju was the mathematics teacher in this school.

All India Sai Samaj, Madras. I have also put them in verse and included



them in the “Sainatha Sathakam” I published as a separate book in 1944.

He came and sat on the Peeta in the Puja room and asked us to come in and sit by His side; He then asked us whether we did not desire to see the various Leelas of previous births. When we welcomed the idea enthusiastically, He agreed to show them to us and all the family collected around. He ordered us to watch Him (Would you believe it? You may not, until you yourself experience the same or similar miracles of Baba), and we were thrilled by the Form of Narayana on the Ocean of Milk, reclining on the Vatapathra (leaf of banyan tree). We heard only word after word, announcing the next Form. The Forms changed from one surprise to another in quick succession. We were given enough time to imbibe the beauty and splendour of each Form and to be struck by the instantaneous power of Baba’s Sankalpa! And where was Baba, our Sathya, all the time? He became Gajendra (elephant) raising his trunk to greet Vishnu on the horizon, Krishna the cowherd boy leaning on a tree and playing the flute, Gopala on

the awe-inspiring Kaliya Serpent, Radha-Krishna, Lakshmi-Narayana, Parvati-Parameswara and Saraswati-Brahma too. Then, we saw Him as Sita-Rama and lo! we heard the name Sathyabhama and saw her; we were blessed by a vision, at Baba’s invisible call, of Mohini the Form that Vishnu once assumed, of Prahlada yearning for Narayana, and immediately thereafter, of Narasimha killing Hiranyakasipu, also of Vamana, Parasurama, and Buddha too; Baba showed us the killing of Sisupala, Saindhava, and of the Rakshasas; there was scene of the Lord bringing the Parijatha (heavenly tree) flowers; the picture then changed to one of Panduranga and then Narada and his ecstatic praise of the Lord; the next one was of Navanithachora, the Balakrishna stealing butter; and after that, the killing of Abhimanyu by the wicked Kaurava chiefs and, last, there was the magnificent Murthi (Form) of Shirdi Baba Himself! How can we ever forget those shining Forms, so full of vitality and life that glowed before our eyes on those two sacred days?

– From “Sanathana Sarathi”, January 1963

SATHYAM SIVAM SUNDARAM

With the divine blessings of Bhagavan Baba, we are now compiling the sixth volume of His glorious life story – Sathyam Sivam Sundaram, which covers the period between 1986 and 1993. The fifth volume depicting His story from 1980 to 1985 was published on this Guru Purnima (21-07-2005). We solicit your valuable feedback on the fifth volume for improving the impact of subsequent releases. We also invite articles / relevant photographs on your experiences with Bhagavan Baba during the period covered by the sixth volume. Please mail your response to saibiography@sssbt.org or post it to the following address:

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Tel: 91-80-28454349, Fax: 91-80-25917612**

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Ganesh Chaturthi Festival

SIMPLICITY, SACREDNESS AND solemnity marked the Ganesh Chaturthi festival which was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 7th September 2005. The whole day of Ganesh Chaturthi was spent by the devotees in a most sacred manner with Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in the morning and afternoon along with singing and listening to the glories of the Lord.

On the morning of 7th September 2005, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.55 a.m. and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees on this auspicious day. The Hall started reverberating with Vedic chants on the arrival of Bhagavan. The Vedic chants were followed by recitation of

Stotras and group songs in praise of Lord Ganesh which started at 8.40 a.m. Thereafter, Bhajans started at 9.00 a.m. which were led by the students of the Institute. The devotees followed the Bhajans with great devotional fervour filling the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations. The morning programme came to a close at 9.20 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. In the afternoon also there were Vedic chants and Bhajans. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.30 p.m. amidst Veda chanting which continued up to 5.00 p.m. when Bhajans started. The Bhajans concluded at 5.30 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all both in the morning and evening.

The idols of Lord Ganesh worshipped by various groups of students and staff of the



A view of some of the beautifully decorated vehicles with Ganesh idols which were brought to Sai Kulwant Hall before being taken for immersion.



Ashram in their respective departments were brought to Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 9th September 2005 before their immersion. The idols set up in vehicles of various artistic shapes presented a grand spectacle when they were neatly lined up in Sai Kulwant Hall. Bhagavan came to the Hall at 3.15 p.m. and blessed the students and staff who accompanied these idols. He also blessed the sweets and fruits which they carried in decorated trays. After Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the vehicles were brought in front of the dais one by one led by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of staff and students. All of them received Bhagavan's blessings while



Bhagavan showering His love on the supporting staff members in Sai Kulwant Hall.

from Sai Kulwant Hall carrying the idols with them for immersion. The celebrations of Ganesh Chaturthi came to a close at 4.50 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

Downpour of Divine Love

The day of 8th September 2005 will always remain unforgettable in the lives of hundreds of staff members of the Ashram and Institute when they had the rare fortune of the Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (sight, touch, conversation) of Bhagavan. Soon after His arrival in Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.15 p.m., Bhagavan took His seat in the centre of the Hall where these staff members were sitting. Showering His Divine grace on



Bhagavan distributing clothes and watches to the supporting staff members.

the Mandir priest offered Arati to the idols. They circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir and slowly departed

all of them, Bhagavan invited each one of them to speak. Some of them recounted their experiences how



Bhagavan protected them at certain critical moments of their life. All of them expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for all they had received in their life from Him. Some of them delighted all by singing Bhajans. Besides, Bhagavan collected letters from them and listened to their prayers. The devotees and students in the Hall watched with joy and amazement how Bhagavan kept showering His unbounded grace on these workers. In the end, each one of them, both

ladies and gents, received clothes and watches from the Divine Hands of Bhagavan. This downpour of Bhagavan's love and compassion which continued for more than one and a half hour inundated each heart. The beaming faces of the staff members expressed their immense delight which they would certainly treasure in the inner recesses of their heart for the whole of their life.

Bhangra Programme by Institute Students

The rich and vibrant culture of the sacred land of the Punjab came alive at Prasanthi Nilayam when the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning enthralled the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with an excellent Bhangra dance on the afternoon of 25th September 2005. The presentation included harvest songs, prayer songs and patriotic songs which were sung along with acting and dance at the beat of the drum. The students also showed many formations and acrobatics which



Institute students enthralling the audience with Bhangra dance.

earned them the appreciation of the viewers who responded to their excellent performance with loud repeated applause.

Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the students at its conclusion. The programme which started at 4.00 p.m. came to a close at 4.25 p.m.

Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara

This excellent drama was enacted in Sai Kulwant Hall by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam on the afternoon of 28th September 2005 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Presented in two parts, the first part of the drama dwelt on the theme of Sathyam Vada (speak truth) and the second part, Dharmam Chara (practise righteousness). The drama commenced at 4.10 p.m. with a beautiful group song and dance. Thereafter, the students enacted the story of a Chinna Katha of Bhagavan on the efficacy of speaking truth. It depicted the story of a thief who, on





A scene from the drama "Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara".

the advice of a savant, took a vow to speak truth, strict adherence to which transformed his whole life, and from a thief he becomes a minister in a king's court. The second part portrayed a story how a proud Tapasvin

(man of penance) was taught the lesson of true Dharma by a devout housewife and a butcher devoted to his Dharma (right conduct) in spite of his lowly profession.

It was a good drama from all accounts, be it acting of the students, choice of lofty theme or planning and direction. But what really made it a unique presentation was the flawless delivery of dialogues by the students in simple but chaste Sanskrit. The drama came to a close at 5.00 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the students in the end. He also gave them the coveted opportunity of group photo with Him.



The root cause of all anxieties and calamities of man is envy. We can find from the Bhagavadgita that Krishna warns Arjuna off and on iArjuna, you have to be without envy. Do not get infected by envy. i Envy is invariably accompanied by hatred. These two are twin villains. They are poisonous pests. They attack the very roots of oneís personality.

ñ Baba

80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THE WORK CONTINUES

1. Public Meetings

USA: On 11th September 2005, the Mid-Central Region of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of America held a public meeting in St. Louis, Missouri at the 1904 World's Fair Pavilion, a magnificent 1300-acre park, considered the crown-jewel of the city. Of the 500 attendees, nearly 350 were guests who previously knew little or nothing about Swami. Before introducing the speakers, regional president Dr. Jack Feely asked the guests to join in a silent prayer for those who lost their lives, were hurt, or lost loved ones during the tragedy of 9/11 four years earlier. He asked that they add to their prayers those who lost so much in the recent hurricane along the Gulf Coast of the USA. The first speaker, Dr. William Harvey, member of the Prasanthi Council, focused his talk on the life and teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. After sharing some miracles he had witnessed, he added that Swami's biggest miracle was His ability to turn people Godward, in the sense of inspiring them to begin to recognise and accept that an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, and all-loving Unseen Force controls their destiny and the events that occur in the world. Concluding his talk, Dr. Harvey reflected that loving God meant loving God's creation – all people and things in this wonderful world. The second speaker was Dr. Anu Diwakaran, a paediatrician who works with children of underinsured families through



Official Proclamation issued by the Mayor of the City of St. Louis.

SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis. She described how her work reflected Baba's teachings to love all and serve all. She articulated Swami's philosophy that it was one's own illusion that caused one to see the diversity of the world and that when one made an attempt to fix one's attention on the divine aspect which is one, then the diverse names, forms and figures would no longer cause trouble.



At the conclusion of the public meeting in St. Louis, the following Official Proclamation issued by the Mayor of the City of St. Louis, Missouri, USA was read aloud to the attendees. At the reading of the Proclamation, unanimous applause arose from devotees and non-devotees alike.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The City of St. Louis has been apprised that Sri Sathya Sai Baba is celebrating His 80th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Sri Sathya Sai Baba is one of the most revered spiritual teachers in the world today whose life and message are inspiring millions of people throughout the world to turn Godward and to lead a more purposeful and moral life; and

WHEREAS, Sri Sathya Sai Baba was born as Sathyanarayana Raju in Puttaparthi, a remote village in the State of Andhra Pradesh in southern India. At the age of fourteen, He proclaimed His mission to bring about the spiritual regeneration of humanity by demonstrating and teaching the highest principles of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-violence; and

WHEREAS, Throughout His life work, Sri Sathya Sai Baba has established an educational system which includes primary and secondary schools and an accredited university, offering undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees with no fees to the students. He has also established four hospitals, two of which provide advanced tertiary care and The Sri Sathya Sai Organisation; and

WHEREAS, The City of St. Louis is pleased and honoured to recognise Sri Sathya Sai Baba for all of His



humanitarian work and extends best wishes to Him for good health, peace and happiness as He continues His journey along life's path.

Now, therefore, I, Francis G. Slay, Mayor of the City of St. Louis, do hereby proclaim 11th September 2005 as:

“SRI SATHYA SAI BABA DAY”
IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of St. Louis, this 11th day of September, A.D. 2005.

– Mayor of the City of St. Louis

United Kingdom: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award aims to provide an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme of personal development for young people between the ages of 14 and 25, which is of the highest quality and the widest reach. The Award is an opportunity for young people to build their self-esteem and develop confidence, to demonstrate that they are making a conscious effort to do something positive and constructive with their time, to learn new skills for the workplace or for personal development, to demonstrate and develop qualities such as initiative, reliability, adaptability, determination, enterprise, responsibility and community awareness.

On 9th August 2005, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation (UK) formalised its partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme by signing the much-coveted Operating Licence Agreement. This gives the Organisation the mandate and authority to run the Award scheme within the structure of the UK Sai Organisation.

Henceforth, throughout United Kingdom, every Region, Centre, and



the Sathya Sai School will now come under this Licence. The Duke of Edinburgh's Office first became interested in the Sai Organisation when the work of the National UK Youth Pilgrimage was brought to their attention. The London Regional Officer of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Wayne Wreglesworth, said: *"I have been waiting for an Organisation like this. If I can leave an Organisation like this to the Award Scheme before I retire, then I will consider myself a very happy man."* At present, all boroughs offer the Award in over 50% of secondary schools and there are over 35,000 participants from every background and community supported by over 7,000 volunteers. At present, there are 15 independent Operating Authorities and this now includes Sri Sathya Sai Organisation (UK).

UK Youth Pilgrimage received their Duke of Edinburgh's Award certificates in front of an audience of 450 people. Presiding over the ceremony was the Chief Executive of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Peter Westgarth, and the Award Scheme's London Regional Officer, Wayne Wreglesworth. Both notables were extremely impressed with the Sai Organisation and in particular the calibre of its youth. In his address, Mr. Peter Westgarth stated that they had a lot to learn from the Sai Organisation, especially from its Founder. Furthermore, a formal invitation from the Palace will be sent later in the year for a private audience with His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, where Sri Sathya Sai Organisation UK will personally receive the Licence Agreement from him. Subsequently, the UK National Youth Wing has been asked to act as advisers for the

forthcoming 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in 2006. This truly is a historic landmark event in the history of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of UK and a befitting tribute to our Beloved Lord Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba during His 80th year of Love in Action.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Ceremony at Savoy Place, London.

At the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Ceremony, hosted by the National Youth Coordinating Committee on Saturday, 3rd September at Savoy Place in London, 160 youth from the National

thousands of victims. On 28th May 2005, twin bombs exploded about 15 minutes apart in a crowded market in the town of Tentena, killing 22 people and injuring at least another 50. In

2. Medical Camps

Indonesia: Since 2000, religious conflict has terrorised parts of Sulawesi (Poso) and claimed





Medical camp organised by Sai Study Group at Kelurahan Tamagapa, Indonesia.

Philippines launched the 'Take Better CARE' (TB CARE) project. Under the auspices of this project, 80 children of Prayer Mountain, Antipolo City will receive treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis. Each group is personally administered the daily dosage by a health worker, who also monitors the progress (X-ray and sputum tests) and other health concerns of the child. The medications are provided by the volunteers of the Sai Organisation. This project will culminate in November 2005, coinciding with Bhagavan's 80th Birthday — by which time

response to this tragedy, on 1st June 2005, a team of 5 Sai workers, with the help of local police, distributed emergency relief supplies such as food, water, milk, medicines, medical equipment and other basic necessities at the public hospital 'Sinar Kasih – Tentena.'

On 29th May 2005, Sai Study Group – Makassar organised a medical camp at Kelurahan Tamagapa. The camp focused on polio awareness to educate the villagers about the dangers of the disease and the importance of immunisation. Dental health services were also provided at this camp which saw the loving participation of 22 doctors and dentists along with 30 volunteers. Tooth extractions and treatment were provided to 55 patients. In addition, 105 children were counselled about dental hygiene and were taught how to properly brush their teeth.

Philippines: On 22nd May 2005, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of



Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Philippines has undertaken Take Better CARE (TB CARE) project for children.

the patients should be completely cured of tuberculosis with Swami's grace.

3. Community Service Programmes

Russia: On 9th and 10th July 2005, a two-day volunteer camp was held in Vasil'ki village of Belarus. 9 volunteers participated in this camp which involved dismantling and reconstruction of the children's playground at the village





A school fence being given a fresh coat of paint by Sai volunteers in Vasil'ki village, Belarus.

school. The school fence was painted with bright colours and the school toilets were repaired. The Sai workers also provided clothes, shoes, hygiene items (baby shampoo, baby cream, soap, tooth paste) and food products (cereals, sunflower oil, sugar, condensed milk, caramel) to the needy families in the community. The fruit garden in the kolkhoz (collective farm) was cleared of old dried branches and trees. The chairman of the cooperative agricultural enterprise and director of the school as well as the village-folk were touched and inspired by the loving selflessness and teamwork of Sai workers.

Canada: From 11th to 15th July, the first ever SSEHV Holiday Camp was successfully organised and conducted by Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Canada. The Camp was one of the first initiatives that emerged from the Character Education Symposium and SSEHV Workshop held earlier this year. The request to conduct the camp came immediately after the symposium from the Principal of Brookview Middle School that is situated in a low-income area of Toronto. With its theme 'Image is Everything', the five-day camp

encouraged students to explore their strengths, goals, and personal choices, and aimed to facilitate the realisation that the internal image of oneself (i.e. who we really are) overrides that of the external self-portrayal (i.e. who others want us to be or who we pretend to be). The students were grouped into four teams, and each team was presented with daily challenges designed to encourage self-confidence, initiative, courage, leadership, teamwork and problem-solving. A variety of interactive

group and sporting activities increased self-awareness of the student's inherent strengths in relation to the five human values and supported a positive view of life. Twenty-four students from grades six, seven and eight participated in the camp and came from diverse ethnic backgrounds. By the end of the camp, all participants including the volunteers, the principal and the students had developed a special bond of love and friendship. In her appreciation letter to the Sai Organisation, the school principal wrote, *"Many thanks for introducing the values programme in the form of a summer camp. The young facilitators (youth volunteers) were superb and of the highest calibre. The Brookview students made incredible gains from all the activities and relationships which were forged and fostered through your magnificent programme."*

– Prasanthi Council

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: Vijayanagaram district carried out "Sri Sathya Sai Divya Paduka Ratha Yatra" for 80 days covering 282 villages, conducting



Sri Sathya Sai Vratas, Bhajans, service activities, spiritual talks and cultural programmes. This district selected 600 very helpless persons from all over the district and gave them food provisions. It gave footwear to 61 selected persons, provided protein food and fruits to 15 pregnant women, carried out Narayana Seva to 1700 poor persons at different places in the district, distributed new clothes to 124 selected persons, gave umbrellas to 10 selected poor people, planted 80 saplings and distributed milk in the maternity centre at Vijayanagaram to the newly born babies and their mothers. This district conducted four veterinary camps at Mujeru, treating 1732 animals, Azzada, treating 600 cattle, Paradhi, treating 290 animals and Ballanki, treating 2206 animals. This district conducted four medical camps at P. Chakrapalli, examining 130 patients, Metta Valasa, treating 65 patients, L. Kota, treating 64 patients and Tekkali, examining 202 patients. All these services were part of Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: The people living next to Sri Govindaji Temple in Imphal East were undergoing a lot of suffering for want of drinking water. To relieve them of this great problem, Sai devotees of Imphal East district started cleaning the unused pond of this temple in phases in June 2005. The old marshy pond covered with long-rooted water hyacinth and shrubby herbs was

cleared and cleaned. The highlight of the activity was that only 15 youth and 2 elders could complete the work within an unexpected period with Bhagavan's grace. Another pond was also cleared with lime and other cleaning materials to become bacteria free.

Karnataka: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Bangalore Urban District celebrated the Sahasra Chandra Darshana Divya Mahotsavam as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan at Brindavan, Bangalore from Friday, 26th August 2005 to



Sahasra Chandra Darshana Mahotsavam being conducted in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

Monday, 29th August 2005. Brindavan Campus was tastefully decorated for the unique occasion. In the Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, nine Homa Kundas were built. Apart from the above, 1008 Kalashas were placed below the Santhi Vedika, on either side of Lord Vinayaka idol with a special rostrum for three main Kalashas and for Padukas. Well decorated idols of Sri Sathyanarayana, Sri Mahalakshmi and Sri Krishna were consecrated.



Starting with Maha Ganapathi Homa and Sri Sai Prarthana on 26th August 2005, Raksha Bandhan was performed on the couples who were selected to perform the Homas. On the next two days, Navagraha Nakshatra Homa, Bhagavadgita Homa, Sri Sai Gayatri and Dhanvantari Homa, Sudarshan and Mrutyunjaya Homa, along with Parayanams (Veda chanting) were held. On the final day, Monday 29th instant, Poornahuti, Sahasra Kalasabhishekam to Swami's Padukas, Veda Parayanam and Mahamangalarati were performed.

More than 250 couples from Karnataka performed the Homas. Thousands of devotees from all over Bangalore and Karnataka and also from other States visited Brindavan on this occasion. There was a stirring talk by Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy after the Poornahuti. It was a thrilling experience, saturated with devotion for all the devotees who participated in this grand event.

Kerala: 'Sai Neethi', the forum of lawyers, is conducting workshops all over Kerala to spread the Divine Message of love and service. At Trichur, 75 lawyers and 15 judicial officers attended the one-day workshop.

Under Sri Sathya Sai Deenanajodharana Project, the 15th centre was opened at Quilon for the mentally challenged children.

Under Sri Sathya Sai Vasthudhara Project, houses are constructed and allotted to poor and needy people. In Kannur district, five houses were given to the needy families. At Nayarambalam in Eranakulam district, a house was constructed and given to a family of three mentally challenged children. Allepey district also

provided a house for a very poor family of two children studying for engineering.

The Sai Organisation is now concentrating on Mother and Child Programme. Under Ammayum Kunjum Programme, all the needs of needy mothers and children are completely taken care of.

Sai Youth members are fully involved in regular Grama Seva as per the oath taken by them during the 3rd Sadhana Camp at Prasanthi Nilayam in April 2005.

Tamil Nadu: A Blood Donation Day was organised by Chennai Metro and Vellore districts of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu on 18th September 2005. Year after year and throughout the year, this noble Seva is carried out by Sai brothers and sisters to save precious human lives. To make this year's Blood Donation Day unique and purposeful in spreading the message of our Beloved Bhagavan, Sai volunteers all over Tamil Nadu campaigned on a door-to-door basis to gather prospective donors.

Blood donation centres were organised at various vantage points in the premises of schools as well as in the nearby hospitals. A total of 1,148 devotees of various blood group categories willingly donated "Liquid Love" with constant Namasmarana. In fact, every blood donation centre was reverberating with Sai Bhajans and the entire environment was charged with love of Sai.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu has been organising a 24 hours, round the clock Liquid Love Donors Seva at Sundaram for the past seven years to cater to the needs of patients irrespective of their caste, creed and economic status.



A LANDLORD STARTED searching for land to add a hundred acres to his existing piece of land. At first, he thought of

you encircle by walking from morning to evening, that much I will give you free.” The next day the landlord got up early and got ready with great enthusiasm for the task

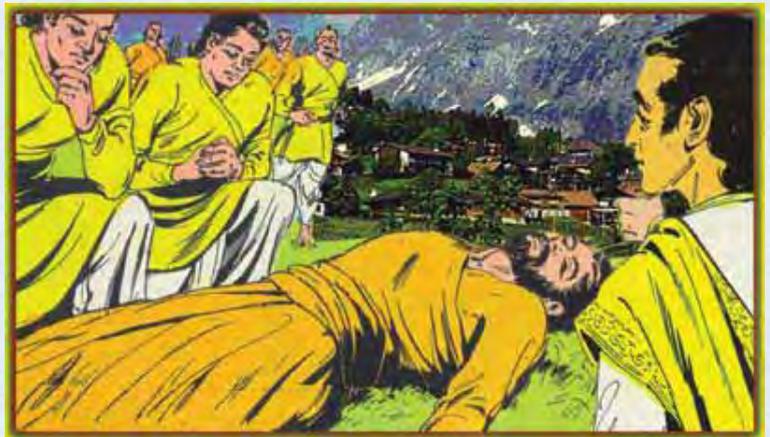
without wasting time on eating anything. He ran from morning till evening in order to cover the maximum land. It became dark; he felt very weak and tired. But he did not leave hope. There were still ten yards of land left to be covered according to the goal he had set for himself. But he felt giddy and fell down on the ground as his heart failed. People all around rushed towards him and found the poor fellow dead. The land



“Whatever area you encircle by walking from morning to evening, that much I will give you free”, said the seller of land.

purchasing land in the region of Nagarjuna Sagar, but he felt that the price of land there was very high. Meanwhile, someone suggested to him that land in the Himalayan region was pretty cheap. The landlord immediately set out for the Himalayan region. There he met a person who wanted to sell his land. Finding the price quite cheap, the landlord became very happy. However, the person who was prepared to sell his land told him, “Sir, I will sell the land at the price of your liking. However, there is another small condition.” “What is that?”, enquired the landlord. The seller of land said, “Whatever area

seller asked, “Now, how much land will be



People rushed towards the landlord only to find him dead.

sufficient for him?” “Six feet is enough”, interjected someone.

See! He lost even his life due to his covetousness.



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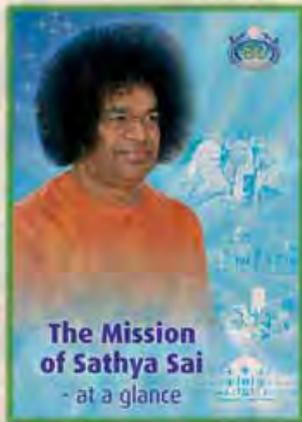
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