

Sai & I

A Collection of Sai's Teachings and Experiences

Dear Swami,

The youth boys of the Sri Sathya Sai Centre of Scarborough place the first installment of the Sai & I newsletter at your Lotus Feet on the day of your 85th year of advent. May your teachings of love and selflessness flourish in our hearts and guide us closer to you.

Selfless Love and Firm Faith

Discourse in Sai Kulwant Mandap on 20-6-1996.

*"A heart without love is lifeless;
Can you call that life
Merely because there is
Breath in the body?
It is just a pair of bellows." - Baba*

EMBODIMENTS of Love!

The hall-mark of love is *thyaaga* (selfless sacrifice). Love seeks nothing from anyone. It bears no ill-will towards anyone. It is utterly selfless and pure.

Failing to understand the true nature of love, man yearns for it in various ways. Love has to be cherished with feelings of selflessness and sacrifice. In what is deemed as love in the world-- whether it be maternal love, brotherly love, or friendship---there is an element of selfishness. Only God's love is totally free from the taint of selfishness. Divine love reaches out even to the remotest being. It brings together those who are separate. It raises man from animality to divinity. It transforms gradually all forms of worldly love to Divine love. To experience this Divine love, men must be prepared to give up selfishness and self-interest. They must develop purity and steadfastness. With firm faith in the Divine, they must foster the love of God regardless of all obstacles and ordeals.



However, even the feeling of universal brotherliness is not the same as the experience of *Ekathvam* (oneness). Even in such a fraternal feeling there is an element of self-interest. Those who really wish to promote universal brotherhood should develop the consciousness of the one Spirit dwelling in all beings. Even brothers are often found engaged in mutual bickerings and hatred. What is described as fraternity may not be real and unsullied love. True love should express itself in the awareness of the presence of the Divine in one and all. Names and forms may differ but the indwelling Spirit is the same in all.

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“You Should Know That I Know”

Have you ever wondered why Swami asks questions to His devotees though He is the all-knowing Paramatma? **Professor Anil Kumar** narrates his experience with our omniscient Lord in which Swami reminds him that he is with us, in us and around us at all times.

These were the days when I was there in Brindavan quite fresh to the Sai system of education and the campus as well. (Prof. Anil Kumar had newly joined the Brindavan campus as the Principal of the college).

One Sunday Bhagavan drove straight to the campus about 8 am. Luckily I was there, even though usually we would take rest on Sundays but I congratulated my stars that they had driven me to be present on that day most unexpectedly.

At that time there was a gentleman named Col. Sood from Punjab who, along with 18 associates, was working in the garden. Well I did not know who they were but someone told me that they do the work regularly.

Bhagavan got down from the car and asked me who are those men. I replied that I did not know. Bhagavan immediately said ‘Can anybody step into the college like that and do work without your permission?’ (Prof. Anil Kumar being the Principal). What am I to do? But then I wanted to be smart and said ‘Bhagavan shall I ask them to get out?’ Bhagavan replied, ‘Since you did not ask them to come in, how can you ask them to go?’ I was stuck in between ‘to be or not to be that is the question’. Swami smiled and left.

Then I thought it is my duty to keep myself abreast of the situation. I slowly approached Col. Sood and did some homework: who he was and his associates. I became familiar with all the data: so and so from Kerala, another from Tamil Nadu, etc.

Bhagavan again came to the college campus at 4 pm. Without being called to come close I ran up to Bhagavan and started to exhibit my knowledge. So and

so is Col. Sood, so and so from Kerala, so and so from Tamil Nadu.

Swami heard this and I thought that He appreciated my knowledge. Swami walked to Col. Sood and



Professor Anil Kumar with Swami

materialised a big ring for him. He then enquired about his son and daughter saying that she must be in her final year of medicine and that his son is in Patilia. He went on talking like this.

I was really non-plussed at that moment. I went up to Bhagavan and said ‘Swami, when You know him and everybody very well, why did You ask me about them? Why did You listen to all this information from me? Swami’s reply is the message that we should take note of.

He said, “I know everything but you should know that I know - therefore I ask you.”

Scintillating Moments with Sai
by Prof. Anil Kumar

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Sangeetha Lola Sathya Saiesha

Swami says, “What God wants is the flower of your heart that is filled with humility and devotion.” Here, a youth member shares his experience in which he expressed his devotion through music and received an undefinable blessing from our Lord.

This summer, a few of the youth of the Sri Sathya Sai Centre of Scarborough went on a pilgrimage with devotees from all across Canada to see our beloved Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Prashanti Nilayam. In addition to being part of this group, I was blessed with the opportunity to sing in front of Swami as a member of the youth choir. The experience was divine, to say the least. Swami listened to every word we sang and while enjoying the devotion in our voices, he kept a steady yet soft beat by tapping his fingers. We were truly fortunate to sing about Lord Ganesh, Krishna and Rama in front the Lord Himself and felt the divine vibrations throughout the atmosphere. Swami’s love brought us to tears when he stayed for the whole program and asked us to continue with more bhajans. Our Bhagawan Baba, our Sangeetha Lola, never fails to amaze us with his limitless love.

“Shed a Tear for Me”

Our dear Lord has is the master of the five elements, is beyond time and space and has the power to move mountains, yet even a child can melt the heart of Swami through pure love and devotion. Here is an episode from the Tapovanam which proves that all Swami wants is our love and happiness.

This happened in 1976. Swami was in Brindavan. Several Engineers were moving all over the place holding some construction plans in their hands. Sri Sathya Sai came out to give darshan to the assembled gathering. To the students crowded around Him, He said, “My dear boys, I am having a new hostel constructed for you. It will be very roomy and comfortable. It will come up at a little distance away at the back of our college building.”

Speaking for all of them one of the boys said, “Swami, we are quite comfortable here, quite satisfied and happy. We do not want a new hostel, Swami. This Brindavan is our home.” Swami explained, “My dear boys, if you consider Brindavan your home, that’s well and good. And I am happy that you are adjusting yourself to it and feeling satisfied. All the same I am unable to bear the sight of you little boys cramped for space. It is My duty to ensure your comfort. Foundation stone for the new hostel building will be laid on the coming Thursday.” Having said this, He moved ahead towards the open space beyond the portico to bless those waiting for His darshan.

The foundation stone laying ceremony was to take place hardly 48 hours later. Engineers were very busy. But the students remained dissatisfied. They did not know what to do. When Baba visited the hostel on the next day, a boy, the youngest of them all, placed a letter in Baba’s hand. He read it through and lovingly smiled at the little fellow. Then He sat on His throne and sent for the warden. When he presented himself, Swami gave the letter to him and asked it to be read aloud. It read as follows:

“Dearest Sai Mother,

Our humblest salutations at Your Lotus Feet. Are You displeased with us? Are we disturbing the silence that is most dear to You? Are we violating the code of discipline and behaving without due restraint? It must be. Otherwise, why would You try to send us away from the beautiful precincts of Brindavan? Why do You insist that a new hostel for us should be built at a far off location? Brindavan is a gracious place; it has brought Your sweet and protective love and care very close to us. Even Gods would desire to enjoy such a love.

With heart-felt love and affection,

Your Child.

P.S. If You are determined, at any rate, to build the new hostel far away from Brindavan, kindly build also a new residence for You and stay close to us.”

As the warden finished reading, there was not a single boy without tears. In one voice, they cried, “Swami, please accept our request.” Bhagavan’s heart melted at the sight. He immediately sent for the Chief Engineer and conveyed the students’ wish. He demurred, “These plans have all been drawn with extreme care. And not much time is left for laying the foundation stone too.” But the boys told Him with one voice that only Brindavan should be their home. Seeing the mood of the boys Swami indicated to the Chief Engineer to have the plans redrawn.



Swami lining up with His students

Fresh plans were made locating the new hostel within the Brindavan Complex. On hearing the exciting news, the children were in ecstasy. On the appointed day when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai was about to light the lamp of ‘arathi’, a boy said, “Swami, You are doing so much for our sake. But we have nothing to offer to You.” Swami replied, “Happy tears are trickling down your tender cheeks. That is all that I want. Shed a tear for Me. What I desire most is only your happiness!” That noble structure which stands now in the Brindavan Complex is a sweet monument, enduring for all time to Baba’s immense love for children!

Tapovanam: Sri Sathya Sai Sathcharithra

Sacred Life Story of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai

By Jandhyala Venkateshwara

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“Man loves because he is Love. He seeks Joy, for he is Joy. He thirsts for God for he is composed of God and he cannot exist without Him.” – Baba

For the Kids...

Wordsearch

a	e	i	a	e	e	a	c	i	i	e	v
v	l	h	e	n	g	a	n	e	s	h	h
s	a	v	i	s	h	n	u	h	h	i	n
l	h	s	n	h	k	h	a	s	i	r	a
a	t	a	v	o	u	s	a	i	v	m	n
u	p	v	o	e	t	i	e	a	a	a	s
e	u	a	b	c	b	r	n	r	a	h	s
a	v	b	e	a	u	k	u	u	h	v	h
n	s	e	b	e	v	o	l	t	r	a	v
h	u	a	r	p	c	i	h	h	h	a	a
a	u	i	a	i	v	a	m	s	a	n	n
a	u	a	n	r	i	h	v	g	t	u	s

Find These Words!

- | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|
| Ganesh | Krishna | Peace |
| Sai Baba | Rama | Truth |
| Vishnu | Love | Shiva |

Colouring Contest

Hi kids! Colour this drawing of Lord Ganesha and you have the chance to win a prize as well as have your drawing in the next Sai And I newsletter. Just scan your picture and e-mail it to: saiandinewsletter@gmail.com.



His Boundless Compassion

Our loving Sai, is the mother of everything in this world including us and all animals. Like a mother, Baba will never hesitate to do anything in His power to protect his children. This episode from Swami's life shows us His selflessness and that we too must have this important characteristic.

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai was once travelling by car from Bangalore to Puttaparthi. One of his students was driving the vehicle. Other cars with groups of devotees were following Swami's Car. The ground was stony and rough, the terrain hilly, desolate and silent. A long cobra was crossing the path. The student driver of Baba's car noticed it from a distance. He could not however, make up his mind whether to stop the car to save the cobra or to run over it. He looked back in the rear seat of the car and found Swami in yoga mudra (deep contemplation). He thought, "Swami is fast asleep. If the car were to be suddenly brought to a halt, His sleep would be disturbed." Therefore, he sped forward and ran over the cobra.



Swami loves the smallest rabbit to the largest elephant

After arriving at Prasanthi Nilayam, the student alighted from the driver's seat, ran and opened the rear door for Swami. Swami got down and proceeded towards the verandah of his residence. The student was intrigued to find a wide smear of mud, like a broad strip, on the back of Swami's robes. He said, "Swami, your garments are soiled on the back." Swami's reply was, "A little while ago I had to go below the car's tire in order to save that poor cobra!"

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