

Om Sri Sai Ram

SAI BABA - THE LIFE BREATH OF EVERY SOUL -I

By Chandur D. Mirchandani

PROLOGUE

Volumes of literature have been written by various authors to sing the glory of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and to prove His Avatarhood, and to make people understand the purpose of His mission for taking this human form.

I am only trying to add a few drops in the infinite ocean of His love and pray to Him right from the bottom of my heart to accept this humble offering as a token of my deep dedication and yearning for the touch of His Lotus Feet, and to bless me with an inner view, so that I am able to understand and put into practice His teachings and His commandments.

Baba is an avatar of love. He has graciously taken this human form, for the sake of the seekers of the truth. Year after Year, and from one Yuga to another Yuga, the saints and sages had been earnestly praying to the Almighty God to descend from His heavenly abode and take a human form. In answer to their prayers and for the sake of the yearning of His devotees and to bring Dharma back to its prime position, the God out of His love and compassion has obliged. How fortunate we all human beings are, to be alive and living at the time when the Avatar Himself is moving in a human body while we can keep a personal rapport with Him and receive the benefit of His Darshan (Glimpse), Sparshan (Touch) and Sambashan (Speech). Baba has openly declared, "I separated Myself from Myself so that I may love Myself". He further declares, "My life is my message", and He strictly and rigidly lives up to it - a complete synchronization of thought, word and deed. He further proclaims that He is an Avatar of all the Avatars.

I am one of the most fortunate devotees to be in the constant touch and under the protection of Bhagawan Baba. My previous book "Thy Will Be Done" which I was able to write through His grace and blessings, and published in 1991 and reprinted in 1997, is the true confession of my association with Baba and the blessings which He has been showering upon me. Now this sudden desire to write another book "Baba: The Life Breath Of Every Soul" is piercing me from inside. Swami, I need your guidance and help and, if You so desire, please bless me, inspire me and motivate me, so that I am able to write this book. This would be one more rose, humbly offered at Your Lotus Feet by this devotee of Yours, who has totally surrendered unto You and is ready to use the remaining span of his humble life in the service of humanity. Please bless me, oh! **The Avatar of Love and Compassion.**

The entire articles on Bhagawan Baba has been contributed by Chandur D Mirchandani which has been extracted from his book

This book is dedicated, to The Lotus Feet of, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, without whose Blessings this devotee would not have found God's love Divine.

**The hand is mine, the guidance is His,
The pen is mine, the writing is His,
The mind is mine, the motivation is His,
In fact, nothing is mine, but everything is His.**

GOD IN HUMAN FORM

People cannot stand the Lord in superhuman form. It is only when the Lord comes in the human body that people are able to approach Him and learn to love Him even a little bit. But one should not make the mistake of thinking that is all there is to the Lord. For instance, the airplane flying high in the sky descends to the airport. But one should not think that the plane is the ground machine because one sees it on the ground. Once it has taken on its load of passengers, it can zoom up high in the sky. In like fashion, although the Lord has made a landing here on the Earth, so to speak, He is not limited by His human form.

BABA: THE LIFE BREATH OF EVERY SOUL

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba says, "God is the Life Breath of Every Soul". But the author proclaims, "BABA IS THE LIFE BREATH OF EVERY SOUL" which is basis for the title of this book. Has the author declared this out of his own imagination? Or has he done this, for the sake of his love, adoration and devotion for Bhagawan Baba? Or is he announcing this to enhance the name, fame and glory of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba? No, the author is fully convinced about the advent of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as the POORNA AVATAR, descended from heaven and taking this human form for the sake of protecting DHARMA. He is the Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent God. The author never needed any further corroboration in this regard, having himself realised and experienced the above truth. He is now eager to convince others - through this book. Hence the above title - the most appropriate for this book.

The proof of the pudding lies in its eating. The truth often in spiritual matters is beyond proof through sensory perception but can certainly be realised and experienced. Although butter is always present in milk, we cannot see it

and need a certain churning process for it to appear. My sole purpose of writing this book is not only to make people realise and experience this truth, but to also make them *see* with their own eyes, that God is truly amongst us to talk, love, console, care and act, like any other human being on Earth. Swami please bless me, so that Your own declaration that, “God lives in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, India”, can be conveyed to the people of the entire world through this book, which You have motivated me to write. I am only an instrument, playing this small role, as assigned to me by Your Will, in this great grand drama of life. Swami, “Thy Will Be Done”.

I will now move step by step to prove and convince the readers about the Divinity of Bhagawan Baba and the purpose of His Incarnation. **First of all to start with, let me quote what Bhagawan Baba has been saying about Himself, in His various discourses, rendered at various places:-**

■ “There are four types of persons : the ‘dead’, who deny the Lord and declare that they alone exist, independent and self-directed : the ‘sick’, who call upon the Lord when some calamity befalls them or when they feel temporarily deserted by the unusual source of succor : the ‘dull’, who know that God is the eternal companion and watchman, but who remember it only off and on when the idea is potent and powerful : and lastly the ‘healthy’, who have steady belief in the Lord and who live in His Comforting Creative Presence always”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, Vijayadasami, 1953)

■ “Note this also. In this Avatar, the wicked will not be destroyed, they will be corrected, reformed and educated and led back to the path from which they have strayed. The white ant infested tree will not be cut : it will be saved. Again this Avatar will not select some place other than the place where the nativity took place for the centre of Its Leelas, Mahimas, and Upadesh. This tree shall not be transplanted: it will grow where it rose from the Earth. Another specialty is this: the Avatar has no affinity or attachments in Its Career to members of the family wherein It appeared. Unlike the appearance as Rama, Krishna etc., where the life was played out mostly among and for the family members, this Avatar is for the Bhaktas, the Aspirants, the Sadhus and Sadhaks only. It has no Japa, Dhyana or Yoga: It knows no worship: It will not pray to anything, for It is the Highest. It only teaches you to worship and pray.

To a worldly man, a God-intoxicated person will appear mad and he will laugh at him, but to the God-intoxicated man, the worldly appear insane, foolish, misled, and blind. Of all the insanities that harass man, God-madness is the least harmful, the most beneficial. The world has suffered untold damage due to its “mad” guides: but nothing but harmony, peace, brotherliness and love has come out of the ‘God-madness’ of man.”

(Prashanthi Nilayam, Maha Shivarathri, 1955)

■ “The Lord too has to come in human form and moves about among men, so that He could be listened to, contacted, loved, revered and obeyed. He has to speak the language of men and behave like human beings, as the member of the species. Otherwise, He would be either negated and neglected or feared and avoided”.

(Peddapuram, 03/09/1958)

■ “Until about an hour ago, the organizers of this function were nervous that I may not come. They had reconciled themselves to the disappointment in store and they were feverishly engaged in making alternative arrangements, for they had heard that the Godavari was in high floods and that I was at Rajahmundry. So they feared that I may not be able to cross the floods and come south in time for this engagement. From the fact that I had permitted them to announce My arrival for the function, they could well have inferred that the floods would subside and that I would be in their midst, for, once My word goes forth, it must happen accordingly. Do not doubt it. The furious waves calmed before Rama, the floods went down in time for Me.

Nothing can hold Me up or agitate Me or cast a shadow on Me, come in this Human form: be certain of that. Not even a hair can be touched by forces of calumny or distrust or ignorance, My Sankalpa must prevail. My task must be accomplished. My mission will succeed. I have come to illumine the human heart with the Light of Divine and to rid man of the delusion that drags him away from the path of Shanthi, the perfect equanimity born of realisation”.

(Venkatagiri Town 09/09/1958)

■ “That is My path, the path of Prema, along which I shall take you. This I offer as my visiting card to every one of you when you come to Me. I know your name, your degrees, your profession, your status and your history. But you do not know Mine. I have no need to know all about you from perusal of your cards: but I want you to know something of My glory: and so I give you a glimpse of it, as a Mahima. But I also give you enough of My Prema so that you can mix a little of it with whatever you do or feel or think and make it sweet and palatable”.

(Venkatagiri, Adyantic conference, 12/04/1959)

■ “The Lord had announced that He would come down for the restoration of Dharma and that He would assume human form so that all might gather around Him and feel the thrill of his companionship and conversation. And the Lord has come as announced”.

(Markandeya Sanskrit College, Aukiriippli, 22/01/1960)

■ “I must tell you that you are luckier than men of previous generations. The accumulated merits of many previous births must have granted you this luck. You have got Me and it is your duty to develop this relationship that you have achieved by sheer good fortune. In four or five years time, you will see Yogis and Maharishis and Munis crowding here and you may not have such chances of asking Me questions and getting the answers, or approaching Me and directly speaking to Me”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 27/09/1960)

■ “As a matter of fact, Puttaparthi is a name revered and remembered with gratitude by millions today and it will be treasured in history as an immortal name. There have been many occasions on which Bhaktas have pleaded with Me to move out of this miasma and settle down in Bangalore or Madras or some such town, or if I preferred, some other quiet rural spot. But let Me tell you here and now : this tree has to grow at the very spot where it sprouted: it will not be transplanted : I shall not give up this place, no, not I. This place will be transformed into Tirupati and those who are little boys and girls today will surely see it in all its magnificence”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 23/11/1960)

■ “Can Paramatma assume human form ? Well, man can derive Ananda only through the human form: we can receive instruction, inspiration, illumination only through human language and human communication”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, Birthday Festival, 23/11/1960)

■ “You all are waiting to hear from Me about the journey to Badri and what happened there. These people went to Badri and returned Bhadram (safe). That is the story in a nutshell.

For danger lurked all the time from fire, water, wind, sky and Earth - all the five elements in fact. Every moment these people felt the Lord’s grace: 150 persons, mostly old men with indifferent health, to accomplish this Yatra without a single moment of even headache was due to Swami. Swami also went to Badri because the Netralingam which is the central source of Holiness there had to be revived with spiritual efficiency. Sankaracharya brought five lingams from Kailash and installed one each at Dwarka, Shringeri, Badri and Puri and the fifth he placed at Chidambaram. Of these, the one at Badri has the Narayan-amsam and that had to be consecrated afresh. That was My task and these people who came with Me saw Me doing it.

The Netralingam laid by Sankaracharya underneath the idol there, was “taken” out by Me and Abhisheka was done with Gangotri water which I fetched by the wave of My hand. It was worshipped with golden Bilva leaves and Thumbe flowers, both created by Me on the spot, and sent back to its original place.”

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 04/07/1961)

■ “Rama, Krishna and Sai Baba appear different because of the dress each has donned. But it is the Self-same Entity, believe Me. Do not be misled into error and loss. The time will soon come when this huge building or even vaster ones will be too small for the gathering of those who are called to this place. The sky itself will have to be the roof of the auditorium of the future : I will have to forego the car and even the airplane when I move from place to place, for the crowds pressing around them will be too huge: I will have to move across the sky: yes, that too will happen, believe Me.

You will witness this Puttaparthi becoming Mathura Nagar. No one can stop this development or delay it. I will not give you up, nor can anyone of you give Me up. Even if you loose faith, you will repent and come to this refuge very soon, clamoring for admission. I shall be in this body for 58 more years: I have assured of this already. Your lives are intertwined with My Earthly Career. Act always in accordance with that great privilege”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 21/10/61).

■ (Baba was brought down the winding stairs into the private room on the ground floor, because he insisted on giving Darshan to the thousands of devotees who had come on that auspicious day. He had an attack of cerebral thrombosis (or tubercular meningitis?) and was in bed for eight days from the morning of Saturday, 29th June, to the evening of 6th July. His left hand, leg and eye were affected: His right hand was also slightly palsy; the tongue was indistinct and the face was twitching. He was placed on the silver chair in the prayer hall and His hand and leg were kept in proper position. As soon as He was seated, He communicated the following message which was interpreted and announced:

“This is not Swami’s illness: this is an illness which Swami has taken on, in order to save someone. Swami has no illness, nor will He get it at any time. You must all be happy: that alone will make Swami happy; if you grieve, Swami will not be happy. Your joy is Swami’s food”.

Then Baba signaled Kasturi to speak, and after his short speech was over, Baba wanted the mike to be held before Him. He asked through it, “Vinipisthundaa”. But, though he asked again and again, the voice was so indistinct that no one could make out what it meant.

He then signaled for water and when it was brought, He sprinkled a little with His shaking right hand on His left leg. He stroked his left hand with the right. Immediately, He used both hands to stroke His left leg: that touch was enough to cure it. He doffed the disease in a trice: He started to speak: it was the same musical voice.

“Dikkulenivaniki devude gathi:” for those who have no refuge, God is the refuge. That is exactly the reason why I had to take on the disease that one helpless Bhakta was to get. He has to suffer this dire illness, as well as the four heart attacks that accompanied it. So according to My Dharma of Bhakthasamrakshana, I had to rescue him. Of course this is not the first time that I have taken on the illness of persons who I wanted to save. Even in the previous body at Shirdi, I had this responsibility. The suffering that you saw was too much for this particular devotee and so, I had to save him, by Myself going through it. This is My Leela: My Nature. It is part of the task for which I have come. Sishyarakshana.

This is perhaps the longest period when I kept the devotees wondering and worried. That was because of the heart attacks which had to come later on to the Bhakta from which also he had to be saved. Then, there is another reason too, why the 8 - day period had to be observed. Well : I shall tell you why. That means I must tell you about Myself, about something I have not disclosed so far, something which I was keeping within Myself, for the last 37 years. The time has come to announce it. This is a sacred day and I shall tell you.

You know I declared on the very day when I decided to disclose My Identity, My Mission and My Advent that I belonged to the Apasthamba Sutra and the Bharadwaj Gothra. This Bharadwaj was a great sage, who studied the Vedas for full one hundred years: but finding that Vedas were Anantha (endless) he did Thapas for prolonging life, and from Indra he got two extensions of a century each. Even then, the Vedas could not be completed, so, he asked Indra again for another hundred years. Indra showed him 3 huge mountain ranges and said, “What you have learnt in 3 centuries are only three handfuls from out of the 3 ranges, which the Vedas are. So, give up the attempt to exhaust the Vedas. Do a Yaga, instead, which I shall teach you: that will give you the fruit of Vedic study, full and complete.

Bharadwaj decided on performing the Yaga: Indra taught him how to do it: all preparations were completed. The sage wanted that Shakti must preside and bless the Yaga. So he went to Kailash but, the time was not opportune for presenting his petition. Siva and Shakti were engaged in a competitive dance, trying to find out who could dance longer. Eight days passed thus. Before Shakti noticed Bharadwaj standing in the cold. She just cast a smile at him and danced along as before: The sage mistook the smile as a cynical refusal to notice him: he turned his back on Kailash and started to descend. To his dismay, he found his left leg, hand and eye put out of action by a stroke. Siva saw him fall: He came up to him and consoled him; Bharadwaj was told that Shakti had indeed blessed him and his Yaga. Then Siva revived him and cured him, sprinkling water from the Kamandulu. Both Siva and Shakti granted the Rishi boons: They would both attend the Yaga, they said.

After the Yaga was over, they were so pleased that they conferred even more boons on the sage. Siva said they would take Human Form and be born in the Bharadwaj lineage or Gothra thrice: Siva alone as Shirdi Sai Baba, Siva and Shakti together at Puttaparthi as Sathya Sai Baba, and Shakti alone as Prema Sai, later. Then Siva remembered the illness that had suddenly come upon Bharadwaj at Kailash on the eighth day of his waiting in the cold, on the ice. He gave another assurance, “As expiation for the neglect which Shakti showed you at Kailash for 8 days, this Sakti will suffer the stroke for 8 days, when we both take birth as Sathya Sai Baba and, on the 8th day, I shall relieve her from all signs of the disease by sprinkling water, just as I did at Kailash to cure your illness.”

It was the working out of this assurance that you witnessed today, just now. This had to happen. This stroke and the cure. The assurance given in the Theta Yuga had to be honored.

Let me tell you one more thing: Nothing can impede or halt the work of this Avatar. When I was upstairs all these days, some people foolishly went out saying, “It is all over about Sai Baba” and they turned back many who were coming to Puttaparthi: Some said I was in Samadhi, as if I am a Sadhak: Some feared I was the victim of black magic, as if anything can affect Me: The splendor of this Avatar will go on increasing, day by day. Formerly when the Govardhanagiri was raised aloft by the little boy, the Gopis and Gopakas realised that Krishna was the Lord. Now it is not one Govardhanagiri, a whole range will be lifted, you will see: Have patience, have faith”.

(Guru Poornima day, 06/07/1963)

■ “You might ask Me to speak about My own mystery. It is not easy to understand it. When you have the chance, gather all the joy that you can. There is no use bolting the door when the thieves have robbed and fled. Seize the chance and do not repent later that you have missed the opportunity. Remember, you have to come to Me, if not in this birth, at least within ten more births : strive to acquire Grace: Grace is the reward for Sadhana: the highest Sadhana is to follow the instructions of the Master”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 12/02/1964)

■ “The Lord comes as Avatar when He is anxiously awaited by saints and sages. Sadhus prayed - and I have come. My tasks are three, or rather two, Dharmarakshana and Vedarakshana both practically the same. The two are therefore: Vedarakshana and Bhaktarakshana: fostering of the Vedas and fostering of Bhaktas. Now what is Bhakti?

Who are Bhaktas? It is faith, steadiness, virtue, fearlessness, surrender, absence of egoism. Pooja done however elaborately and pompously is sheer waste of time and energy. Why pluck flowers and hasten their death? Some of you go round this Nilayam and satisfy yourselves that you have done so many pradakshinas, but they can be called so only when your mind circles this place along with your feet. I notice that while your feet are taking you round by force of habit, your tongue blabbers about the faults of others, or the price of the vegetables, or the dish you propose to cook for lunch. Before you start on your rounds which you call Pradakshina, give your mind a Dakshina (thanksgiving offering) to the Resident of the Temple, the Lord. That is the first thing to do, and perhaps, the only thing to do. Pradakshina is not to be taken for loosening the limbs or giving them some exercise.

Be confident that you will be liberated. Know that you are saved. Go and tell all that you had gone to Puttaparthi and got there the secret of liberation”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 25/01/1963)

■ “It was declared that Rama was born of the payasam which was brought by the Deity from out of the sacrificial fire. No Avatar is born flesh and blood, including this Avatar. The body of the Avatar is chit substance: it is not jada like other materials. The embryo of ordinary mortals is encased in ‘Jalodakasayi’ enveloped in watery stuff; the embryo of the Avatar is encased in ‘Kshirodakasayi’, the pure white milk of holiness. That is why in the make up of the Avatar, there is no blemish, there is no trace of Guna. Dasaratha wept, for he had no sons to offer ritual food when he moved out into the next world. When all are of the form of God and of the substance of God, who is son and who is father, who is to offer food to whom, when that high stage of wisdom is reached? Kshama is the father, Santham is the mother, renunciation is the wife, and the Lord is the son, the male issue to save him from perdition. This desire brought his spirit before Rama, when Sita was about to enter the fire in Lanka.

Ravana was killed and Rama asked Sugriva and Lakshmana to crown Vibhishana as Emperor of Lanka; he pleaded that Rama Himself should bless him on that auspicious occasion, but Rama insisted that His vow of hermithood prevented Him from entering an inhabited city. Rama sent Hanuman and requested him to bring Sita to the camp in a palanquin. Vibhishana had not thought of that; he was too immersed in other affairs. Hanuman bowed before Sita and got a vision of Lakshmi rising out of the waves of the ocean of milk. He felt that that vision was enough compensation for all the births he had to undergo. While the palanquin neared the camp, there spread everywhere a sublime splendor from it, which astonished the varana hordes. Rama sent word that Sita may alight and walk the remaining distance, so that they may fill their eyes with her glory. **This is not mentioned in the books.**

When Sita was about ten yards away, Rama, who is butter when He melts and steel when He hardens, said, “Stop, I can accept you only after you pass through Fire”. Lakshmana swooned at this thunderbolt; the monkeys who had to bring the fuel for the Fire bent under the weight of seven twigs. The Fire ordeal served two purposes: to scorch the slanderous tongues, which haunt the tracks of Avatars at all times: and, to retrieve from the Fire the real Sita who had entered into it, prior to abduction by Ravana”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 04/02/1963)

■ “The aero plane has to land at certain places in order to take in those who have won the right to fly, by the tickets they have purchased. So too, the Lord has to come down so that those who have won the right to be liberated may be saved; incidentally, others too will know of the Lord, of His grace and ways of winning it, the joy of liberation. There are some who deny even today the possibility of air travel; they curse the contrivance; they cavil it. Similarly, there are many who cavil at the Avatar that has come to save”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 05/02/1963)

■ “You can call me on the phone, but I will not be available for all those who do not have the sincere and steady yearning for the Lord. For those who say “No, you are not my Lord,” I say ‘No’ for those who say ‘yes’. I too echo ‘Yes’. If I am available in your heart, I will be available over the phone, but, remember, I have my own special postal and telephone systems. They operate from the heart straight to the heart. There are rules and regulations for the operations of that system, which the Sasthras declare. You can find them there”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 29/07/1964)

■ “Krishna-Avatar is a Sampurna Avatar, the Lord appearing with all the 16 Kalas; Rama shared the Kalas with other brothers. Rama appeared as if He was associated with Gunas or qualities, or as having qualitative behavior, whereas Krishna was above and beyond such. Krishna never prayed, not even in the direst crisis: But Rama does so, to Aditya, for instance; the intent of that Avatar was different. Krishna was unaffected by Gunas, His relationship with the Gopis was pure. A person like Dharmaraja selected Him above all the sages and saints of the day for special worship at the Rajasuya sacrifice”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 26/11/1964)

■ “Some of you may imagine that it is source of joy for the Lord to take a human form. If you are in this state, you will not feel so. I am always aware of the future, the past as well as the present of every one of you. So, I am not

moved so much by pity. Not that I am hard-hearted, or that I have no pity or daya. If you bolt the door fast, how can the rays of My grace be available to you? “Swami”, you cry, I have no eyes, I am yearning to see you. Won’t your heart melt at your plight? Of course, his pitiable condition melts your heart; will it not melt Mine? But since I know the past, the background, My reaction is different. If only you knew, you too will react differently. It is the consequences of the evil, deliberately done in the previous births, and so I have to allow the suffering to continue, modified often by some little compensation. I do not cause either joy or grief; you are the designer of both the chains”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 26/11/1964)

■ “When people forget the One and run after the many, Dharma declines; for, there can be no love, no sacrifice, no detachment in human affairs then. So, the Lord takes the human form and comes amongst men to restore his sense of values. You may ask, why should the Lord Himself incarnate? Why can he not set about the task of restoring Dharma through the many minor Gods He has at His command? This question was posed before the courtiers by Akbar himself, for, he laughed at the Hindu idea of the Formless adopting Form, the descending into the world as an Avatar to save Dharma. Birbal asked for a week’s time to furnish the answer and got it granted by his Imperial Majesty. A few days later, when he was in the pleasure boat of the Emperor sailing across the lake with his family, Birbal cleverly threw overboard a doll made to look like the Emperor’s little son, crying at the same time. “O, the prince has fallen into the water:” Hearing this, the Emperor jumped into the lake to rescue his son:

Birbal then disclosed that it was only a doll and that the son was safe. He allayed the anger of Akbar by explaining that he had perforce to enact this drama in order to demonstrate the truth of the Hindu belief why God takes human form Himself, to save Dharma, without commissioning some other entity to carry out the task. Dharma is as the son, God loves it so dearly. Akbar could have ordered one among the many personnel he had on board to jump in and rescue his son; but his affection was so great and the urgency so acute that the Emperor himself plunged into the lake to pull out the “son”. The decline of Dharma is so acute a tragedy; the intensity of affection that the Lord has for good men is so great that He Himself comes. The Lord is love itself. He comes in human form so that you can talk to Him, adore Him, move with Him, serve Him and achieve Him, so that you can recognise your kinship with Him.”

(Venkatagiri Prashanthi Vidwanmahasabha, 13/12/1964)

■ “The newspapers have a great role to play; but they are content to cater to the vulgar tastes and become waste papers soon. I was, during the last month, in Maharashtra state, in Bombay, where lakhs and lakhs of people satisfied their thirst for Darshan and while I was discoursing to the several thousands on the fundamentals of the Vedas and Sasthras and directing the members of the Prashanthi Vidwanmahasabha (Maharashtra Branch) to resuscitate the glorious value culture of our land. I was discussing with ministers, judges, business magnates, doctors, lawyers, editors and others belonging to Maharashtra, Saurashtra and Delhi about the programme of Dharmasthapana. And here, in this part of India, certain newspapers were wallowing in the lies that they invented and circulated about what had happened to Me. They print without any shame their despicable inventions displaying malice and envy of the lowest order. Of course, such calumny is quite an ancient experience for the eminent; this is My experience in previous Yugas also. The successors of Sisupala cannot remain idle; consider to what low level human weakness has descended. I do not care either for praise or blame; I only pity these people who, in order to scrap together a few paise from the poor, resort to such venial tricks. For all who are pained by these subhuman antics I declare, “Even if all the fourteen worlds unite together, the work for which I have come will not suffer a bit; even if Earth and Heaven combine. My truth can never be fully grasped”.

(Anantapur High School for Girls, School day. SSS, Vol.V)

■ “It is only in Sanathana Dharma that the importance of Karma in shaping the destiny of man, the fact of the individual undergoing many births in his progress towards birthlessness and mighty grace of God’s coming as man among men to gather them around Him in Holy companionship for saving them and saving the world through them, is so strongly and clearly laid down. If you doubt any of these great truths, you are to suffer and grieve. Every one of you must be saved, sooner or later, by the grace of the All-Merciful. Make it sooner than later. Keep the goal clear before the eye and march on”.

(Dasara, 1966. 17/10/1966)

■ “I am also the target of such comments: people do not understand the way of God. How can they know why particular event takes place at a particular time in a particular manner? He alone can know. But people try to sit in judgment and talk ill, when for example one dies of illness at this place: how can anyone escape death? Even Avatars cast off the physical form when the task for which they have come is over. It is the height of foolishness to loose faith in God when someone you care for dies. The sentence that he earned is over and he is released. No one is born and allowed to live for the sake of another. Each has his own burden to carry and lay down. Do not therefore allow any circumstances to affect your faith in God, who is your strength and solace.”

(Mahashivrathri, Prashanthi Nilayam, 09/03/1967)

■ “You must have noticed that I do not speak about Sai in My Discourses, nor do I sing of Sai during the Bhajan with which I usually conclude My discourses. And you must have wondered why. Let me tell you the reason. I do not want the impression to gain ground that I desire this name and this Form to be publicised. I have not come to set a new cult. I do not want the people to be misled on this point. I affirm that this Sai form is the Form of all the Various Names that man uses for the adoration of the Divine. So, I am teaching that no distinction should be made between the names Rama, Krishna, Iswara, and Sai? For they are all My Names”.

(World conference of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Bombay, 17/05/1968)

■ “Since at this place, those who have devotion have gathered and people of all nations have come, I cannot but tell you one fact. World conferences dedicated to religion or spiritual problems have, no doubt, been held before; also, Conference of Followers of Spiritual Faiths. But these have been held only after the demise of the founders and divine inspirers. This is the very first time that a world conference is held of the persons devoted, while the Incarnation is present before every one, with the Body assumed for the purpose, bearing the Name that is chosen for it by itself. I must tell you this fact, because ninety nine persons out of hundred among you do not know my Reality. You have come here drawn by various needs, a taste for spiritual matters, eagerness to develop the institution to which you are attached, admiration or affection, love or reverence or spurt of enthusiasm to join others and share with others your own exultations.

In truth, you cannot understand the nature of My Reality either today, or even a thousand years of steady austerity or ardent enquiry even if all the mankind joins in that effort. But, in a short time, you will become cognisant of the Bliss showered by the Divine Principle, which has taken upon Himself its Sacred Body and this sacred Name. Your good fortune which will provide you this chance is greater than what was available for Anchorites, monks, sages, saints and even personalities embodying facets of Divine Glory.

Since I move about with you, eat like you, and talk with you, you are deluded in the belief that this is but an instance of common humanity. Be warned against this mistake. I am also deluding you by My singing with you, talking with you, and engaging Myself in activities with you. But, any movement, My Divinity may be revealed to you; you have to be ready, prepared for that moment. Since Divinity is enveloped by humanness you must endeavor to overcome the Maya (delusion) that hides it from your eyes.

This is a human form in which every Divine Entity, every Divine Principle, that is to say, all the names and forms ascribed by man to God, are manifest. (Sarvadaivathwa Sarvaroopaalana dharinchina maanavaakaarame ee aakaaram). Do not allow doubt to distract you; if you only instal , in the altar of your heart, steady Faith in My Divinity, you can win My vision of My Reality. Instead, if you swing like a pendulum of a clock, one moment devotion, other moment disbelief, you can never succeed in comprehending the Truth and win the Bliss. **You are very fortunate that you have a chance to experience the Bliss of the Vision of the Sarvadaivathwa swaroopam (The Form which is the all Forms of all God) now in this life itself.**

Let me draw your attention to another fact. On previous occasion when God incarnated on Earth the Bliss of recognising Him in the incarnation was vouchsafed only after the physical Embodiment had left the world, despite plenty of patent evidences of His Grace. And the loyalty and devotion they commanded from men arose through fear and awe, at the superhuman powers and skills, or at the imperial and panel authority. But, ponder a moment on this Sathya Sai Manifestation; in this age of rampant materialism, aggressive disbelief and irreverence, what is it that brings to it the adoration of millions from all over the world? You will be convinced that the basic reason for this is the fact that this is the supra-worldly Divinity in Human Form.

Again, how fortunate you are that you can witness all the countries of the world paying homage to Bharat; you can hear adoration to Sathya Sai’s Name reverberating throughout the world, even while this body is existing - not at some future date, but when it is with you, before you. And again, you can witness very soon the restoration of Sanathana Dharma to its genuine and natural status, the Dharma laid down in Vedas for the good of all the people of the world. The revival of Vedic Dharma is the Sai Sankalpa (the resolve that Sai has) not only drawing people towards Me, attracting them by the manifestation of My Shakti (Power) and Samartya (capability). This is not a Brahma tatwam (phenomenon of delusion). This phenomenon (thatwam) will sustain truth, it will uproot untruth, and in that victory may all of you exult in ecstasy. This is the Sai Sankalpa”.

(World Conference of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Bombay, 17/05/1968)

■ “Then we have this programme of Nagarsankeerthan. It is nothing new, for Jayadeva, Gouranga, Tukaram and Kabir used this type of Namasmarana as a means of self- improvement and mass spiritual awakening. Gather in the early hours before dawn, say about 4.30 A.M or 5.00 A.M., and proceed slowly along the streets, singing Bhajan songs glorifying God. Carry the name of God to every door: wake the sleeping with it, purify the atmosphere of the streets, rendered unclean by angry shouts of hate or greed, faction or fight. Let the day dawn for you and others with thought of the Almighty, the Compassionate, the Omnipresent self-knowing God. What greater service can you do to yourself and others? This will give you health and happiness. Your egoism will be shattered when you sing in the

streets in full view of your neighbors. You will forget in your enthusiasm all pride and self-esteem. Thus, this Nagarsankeerthan is a great Sadhana, a great piece of social service.

Another point too was raised yesterday, a small one about Prasadam (the edible that is usually offered to the Lord after Bhajan and distributed as consecrated food for the participants). Well, the edible offering is to be avoided; the Name itself is the best consecrated offering to be shared. You can give Vibhutti as Prasadam; that is enough. That is the most precious and effective Prasadam.)”.

(World conference of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Bombay evening of 18/05/1968)

■ “Another point; you desire that I should come to your houses : you pray to Me to do so, you grieve when I do not come, you start reviling yourself that you are poorer than others, that you are spiritually underdeveloped perhaps, and so on. Now, all this is irrelevant. I have no place in My heart for such distinctions and differences. You may believe this or disbelieve. But, I must reveal the real response of My heart. I have no enthusiasm to visit the houses of the people; nor have I any disinclination to do the same. I do not care for the brick and mortar structures in which you live; I care to visit and reside in your hearts. This Prashanthi Nilayam is not My residence. When your hearts are transformed as Prashanthi Nilayams, they are My residence. When you pray that I should visit your village, I think of the facilities it has - not for Me. I need only standing space - for the sake of thousand, the tens of thousands, the hundreds of thousands that gather to have My Darshan. How can I tolerate the slightest inconvenience to them, the women, the children, the sick, the aged, the blind, the decrepit that come for counsel, consolation, courage and cure?

Let me tell you another point also. Do not delay any more; take hold of this unique chance, even while you can. Ask me about the Sadhana you should adopt about your liberation; begin practicing from this day. Later it may be difficult to approach Me and ask Me. For, people are coming towards Me in full unending streams, and you may have to take Darshan of Me from miles away: This is bound to grow into a Viswa-vriksha, a World-tree that sheds shade and shelter on all. This has come down in this Form with that very purpose. It knows no halting, no hesitation. My name is Sathya (Truth). My teaching is Truth; My path is Truth; I am Truth.

In each Yuga, the Divine has incorporated itself as an Avatar for some particular task. This Incarnation is different in that it had to deal with the crisis which is worldwide and World-shaking. Intellectual conceit has grown so wild that men have become foolish enough to ask, “What and where God is?” Immortality has put off the garb of mortality and is enticing man into the morass of sin. Truth is condemned as a trap; justice is jeered at; saints are harassed as social enemies. Hence this Incarnation has come to uphold the Truth and suppress the False. I behave like you, moving, singing, laughing, journeying, but watch out for the blow I inflict all of a sudden, to chastise and to warn. I shall scorch the wrong doer for his wrong and soothe the virtuous for his righteousness. Justice shall be meted out to all”.

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 18/08/1968)

■ “I shall not change my course even by a hair’s breadth, as a result of what people may say about Me. I am not afraid of any one or thing. Truth has no fear; untruth shivers at every shadow. This body of Mine is named Truth (Sathya); the principle that is in this body is also Truth. Truth enclosed in Truth has been rendered the Truth of Truths (Sathyasaya Sathyam). This form has been assumed, in order to lead mankind from untruth to truth.

I eat as you do, move about as you do, talk in your language, and behave as you can recognise and understand, for YOUR sake - not for My sake:. I turn you towards Divine, winning your confidence, your love, your submission, by being among you, as one of yourselves, one whom you can see, listen to, speak to, touch and treat with reverence and devotion. My plan is to transmute you into seekers of Truth (Sathya-anveshakas). I am present everywhere at all times; My will must prevail over every obstacle; I am aware of the past, present and future, of your innermost thoughts and carefully guarded secrets. I am Sarvaantharyami, Sarva Saktha and Sarvajna. Nevertheless I do not manifest these powers in any capricious manner or merely for display. For, I am an example and as inspiration, whatever I do or omit to do. My life is a commentary on my message.

For example, you must have noticed that I never call a woman alone for interview. I call women only into group of ten or fifteen. I want that you should note this and infer that one has to be extremely cautious in dealing with the other sex, for, though I am above and beyond, the Gunas, since this body is obviously masculine, I want to teach both men and women how they have to regulate their social behavior and be above the slightest tinge of suspicion, or of small talk.

Again, I am active and busy all the twenty-four hours of the day. Everyday, the mail brings the thousands of letters, and you hand over to Me personally hundreds more. Yet, I do not take the help of anyone else, even to open the envelopes. For, you write to me intimate details of your personal problems, believing that I alone will read them and having implicit confidence in Me. You write each one only a single letter, that makes for Me a huge bundle a day; and I have to go through all of them. You may ask how I manage it? Well I do not waste a single moment.

And, all this I do, not for personal gain, but only because I have come for your sake. I never seek another's help, never receive it. My hand always gives; it never takes. Conclude from this that this must be Divine, not human power.

Some of you may be wondering, 'How does Swami arrange these elaborate festivals and functions? Who does He charge with the various items of work?' I do not allot work to this person or that, or consult anyone for ideas and suggestions. All this is done by the Divine Will, operating through the force of love. For example, though there are thousands gathered here, absolute silence prevails. Under what compulsion? Only the compulsion of love. In other places, where a hundred people collect, a hundred and fifty constables are present to keep them quiet: Here there is no need for any one to see that silence is maintained. For, here God is the Master, and Creation dances in joy. There is no third entity here. Only Purusha and Prakriti are here. A glance from the corner of the eye is enough to get things done towards successful conclusion. Love activates, love fulfils.

When the Giver of Grace is here, you run after persons who claim that they got this or the other article from Me or were blessed with this gift from Me: When you have Kamadhenu here, why seek to know and secure a cow? Kamadhenu can give you all that you need. When you have Kalpataru here, why bother about fruits on a tree? Kalpataru can give you all that you ask. When you have the mountain of gold and silver, Meru, why cringe for silver and gold from persons who are themselves beggars? When you have God come amongst you to support and sustain you, why grovel through crude vulgar entities? Avoid places where they bargain in terms of gifts, donations, for Spiritual guidance and Transmission".

(Dasara, Prashanthi Nilayam, 11/10/1970)

■ "Once Hislop asked me a question whether inanimate things too had emotions and feelings of disappointment and despair? The occasion was at Dharmakshetra: I asked that about a hundred saris he bought, so that I could select some, for distribution to the women workers at Anantapur who are helping to build a Sathya Sai College there: I selected 96 and asked them to return 4 to the shop. I kept the 4 aside and the 96 were placed in my room. Later, when I passed the table on which the four discarded saris were kept (Hislop was standing by the side of the table), it was noticed that the card board box which contained the four was dripping tears: The saris were weeping; that they could not get appreciation from Me and were declared unfit. Yes: They had shed tears. You may ask whether this is ever possible. I answer, there is nothing in this world which has no heart, which is incapable of feeling joy or grief: Only you must have the eye to see, the ear to listen, the heart to respond".

(Prashanthi Nilayam, 14/01/1971)

■ "But those who profess to have understood me, the Scholars, the Yogis, the Pundits, the Jnanis, all of them are aware only of the least important the casual external manifestation part of that power, namely the "Miracles" : they have not desired to contact the source of all Power and all Wisdom, that is available here at Brindavan. They are satisfied when they secure a chance to exhibit their book learning and parade their scholarship in Vedic lore, not realising that the person from whom the Vedas emanated is in the midst, for their sake. They even ask, in their pride, for a few more chances.

This has been the case, in all ages. People may be very near (physically) to the Avatar, but, they live out their lives unaware of their fortune: they exaggerate the role of miracles, which are trivial, when compared to My Glory and Majesty, as a mosquito is in size and strength to the elephant upon whom it squats. Therefore, when you speak about these miracles, I laugh within Myself out of pity, that you allow yourself so easily to loose the precious awareness of My Reality.

My power is immeasurable; My Truth is inexplicable, unfathomable. I am announcing this about Me, for, the need has arisen. But, what I am doing now is only a gift of a visiting card: Let Me tell you that emphatic declarations of the truth by Avatars were made so clearly and so unmistakably only by Krishna. In spite of the declarations, you will notice in the career of the same Krishna that He underwent defeat in His efforts or endeavors, on a few occasions you must have also noted that those defeats too, were part of the drama which He had planned and He Himself directed. For example, when many kings pleaded with Him to avert the war with the Kauravas, He confessed that His mission to the Kaurava court for ensuring peace had failed: But He had willed that it should not succeed : He had decided that the war would be waged: His mission was intended to publicise the greed and envy of the Kauravas and to condemn them before the whole world.

Now, I must tell you that during this Sai Avatar, there is no place for even such 'drama' with scenes of failure and defeats: What I Will must take place; what I plan must succeed. I am Truth; and Truth has no need to hesitate, or fear or bend.

'Willing' is superfluous for Me. For grace is ever available to devotees who have steady love and faith. Since I move freely with them, talking and singing, even intellectuals are unable to grasp My Truth, My power, My glory or My real task as Avatar. I can solve any problem however knotty; I am beyond the reach of the most intensive enquiry and the most meticulous measurement. Only those who have recognised My love and experienced My love can assert that they have glimpsed My reality. For, the path of love is the royal road that leads mankind to Me.

Do not attempt to know Me through the external eyes. When you go to a temple and stand before the image of the God, you pray with closed eyes, don't you? Why? Because you feel that the inner eye of wisdom can alone reveal Him to you. Therefore, do not crave for from Me trivial material objects; but, crave for Me. And you will be rewarded. Not that you should not receive whatever object I give as sign of grace out of fullness of love.

I shall tell you why I give these things, talismans, rosaries etc., it is to signalise the bond between Me and to those whom they are given. When calamity befalls them, that articles come to Me in a flash and return in flash taking from Me the remedial Grace of protection. The Grace is available to all who call on Me in any name or form, not merely to those who wear these gifts. Love is the bond that wins that Grace.

Consider the meaning of my name, Sai Baba. Sa means 'Divine'; aye means 'mother' and Baba means 'father', just as Samba Siva, which also means the divine mother and father. Your physical parents exhibit love with a dose of selfishness; but this Sai 'Mother and Father' showers affection or reprimands only for leading you towards victory in the struggle for self-realisation.

For, this Sai has come in order to achieve the supreme task of uniting the entire mankind as one family, through the bond of brotherhood, of affirming and illumining the Atmic Reality of each being in order to reveal the Divine, which is the basis on which the entire cosmos rests, and of instructing all to recognise the common Divine Heritage that binds man to man, so that man can rid himself of the animal, and rise into the Divine which is his goal.

I am the embodiment of Love; Love is my instrument. There is no creature without Love; the lowest loves itself, at least. And its self is God. So, there are no atheists, though some might dislike Him or refuse Him, as malaria patients dislike sweets or diabetic patients refuse to have anything to do with sweets: those who present themselves as atheists will one day, when their illness is gone, relish God and revere Him.

I had to tell you so much about my truth, for, I desire that you should contemplate on this and derive joy and reform so that you may be inspired to observe the disciplines laid down by Me and progress towards the Goal of Self-realisation, the Realisation of the Sai that shines in your heart”.

(Brindavan, 19/06/1974)

■ Swami declared, “Why is it that so many lakhs of people have gathered here today? There must be some compelling reason for it. You must be seeking something which you have not found in your native place. Here there is Divine Love; it is this powerful magnet of Divine Love that has been attracting all the iron filings in the form of human beings. Not a single invitation was sent to anyone. No one was asked to come. What has drawn all the people here is power of Divine Love, the bond uniting hearts. At the root of all this is purity. Where there is purity there love grows. When purity and love come together, there is bliss (Ananda). Whatever work we do, whatever sacrifices we perform, they are not of much use in the absence of love.

NEW HOSPITAL PROJECT: With this object in view (Providing free medical facilities), we decided to establish a big hospital here. Many persons appealed to Me to set up the hospital in an urban centre. There are many medical institutions run as business in several cities. When any educational or medical institution is established, the sole aim is to make a business out of it. There are only a few who are ready to set up such institutions to provide free facilities for the poor. Therefore from the start we decided to set up a hundred crores hospital near Prashanthi Nilayam itself. Even as higher education is free here 'higher medicine' also is free. People spend some lakhs to get heart surgery done in the U.S. What is the plight of the poor? Who looks after them? If they go to the cities, they will not get even colored water (Mixture). Recognising this fact, we have launched this big hospital project, whether it is heart bypass operation, or a kidney transplant, or a lung operation or brain surgery, everything will be free here. THE HOSPITAL WILL BE OPENED ON NOVEMBER 22, 1991. No one can understand Sai Sankalpa (working of the mind) Thought and action are simultaneous, like the light and sound that come out when a gun is fired. Hence it is not easy for every one to understand Sai's resolve.

In the case of earlier Avatars their fame grew only after their passing. In the case of the present Avatar, in His own life time a UNIVERSITY, BIG HOSPITAL, AN AERODROME, AND MANY OTHER THINGS, have been established, for the benefit of the villagers, and many more will follow in the years ahead. Many persons have doubts as to how all these things are being accomplished. The ADVENT (OF THIS AVATAR) took place 64 years ago. All these years this hand has not been stretched, at any time, to seek anything from anyone. I will never ask anyone and there will never be an occasion for it. How then are these things happening? For any good work, there is not any impediment in Bharat. When you want to do any good work whole-heartedly, money flows in torrents.

The narrow-minded who undertake any work will never be satisfied. They cannot understand the actions of those who are large hearted and broad-minded.”

(65th Birthday Celebrations, Hill View Stadium, 23/11/1990)

■ “Today I have just made a beginning with the exposition of Vedanta. Every Mantra in the Vedanta is pregnant with meaning. I shall take up every day one Mantra and explain its meaning in simple and easily intelligible terms.

The essence of the Vedanta can be compressed in a small message, but that small message is composed of 15000 Mantras. I shall reveal to you the meaning of these Mantras. This cannot be done by anyone except the Divine.

You have not known even a fragment of My reality. The full nature of this reality can never be understood by anyone. I am a man amongst men, when they see Me, I appear as a man. Amongst woman, I am a woman. Amongst children I am a child. When alone, I am God. This is the truth about Me. The reason is I have to act towards each section at their level.

You must realise that all this is coming to you because of your extreme good fortune. This kind of blessing has not been given to anyone by any previous Avatar.

Your good fortune will fructify immensely if you make good use of this opportunity to learn and benefit from Swami's teachings.

You will see in the due course that even the blind declare, "Swami is God".

In the human condition, occasionally Maya enters and subjects people to various tests. Do not submit to Maya in any way.

Succeed in all tests. Then you will become tasty for Bhagawan. Immerse yourself in the love principle. Its true nature is beyond description.

Give up all bad qualities in you, banish the ego and develop the spirit of surrender. You will then experience Bliss.

(Sai Kulwant Hall, 31/07/1996)

After reading all this about Baba's declarations about Himself that He is an Avatar (God descended in human form), the readers must have been hopefully, fully convinced, discarding any doubt that may have lingered in their mind. Nevertheless there may still be a few doubting Thomases and so-called rationalists who need some more authentic proofs, before they are able to accept this truth in all its totality. Hence in the next chapter, the author would like to delve upon the characteristics of an Avatar, and the prophesies made about an Avatar, particularly in context to the present Avatar Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

PROPHESIES ABOUT AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AN AVATAR

LORD KRISHNA made a most emphatic declaration at Kurukshetra (in the epic, Mahabharata), while he was preaching Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna, asserting, "Whenever Dharma is overpowered by Adharma, I will reincarnate from age to age". BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA confirms the above and openly declares and says, "I am the same LORD KRISHNA, come down in this human body, as Lord of Puttaparthi".

Bhagawan Baba further confirms by saying:

"There was no one to know, who I am, Until I created the world, At My pleasure, with one word, Immediately mountains rose up, Oceans, seas, lands and water shades, Sun, Moon and desert sands, Sprang out of nowhere, To prove My Existence. Then came all forms of beings, Men, Beasts and Birds, Speaking, hearing, flying, All powers were bestowed upon them, Under my orders. The first place was granted, To mankind. And my knowledge was placed, In man's mind".

The author, here. Would like to apprise the readers that as per the above declaration, the Avatars come, once in a Yuga. They are known as descending Avatars. The present Poorna Avatar has come after 5000 years, in Kali Yuga. The descending Avatars take the human form, out of their own Will (Sankalpa), for protecting Dharma and in response to the yearning of their devotees. The descending Avatars even choose their own parents and the place of birth in advance as per their own Will. They have a Divine symbol, like Chakra or Shank etc., on their body or feet. They are not born like mortals. They enter the body through Pravesh, taking birth as per their own Will. Their embryo is encased in pure white milk of holiness and not like ordinary mortals enveloped in watery environment. Some extraordinary things take place as the time of their birth which are not ordinary phenomena but Divine occurrences that substantiate the advent of an Avatar. They are born with supernatural powers, innate to them and not acquired by them by any Siddhis during their life time. They have full control over all the five elements of which the entire Universe is composed of. They are the Masters of the entire cosmos. Whatever they Will takes place instantly. Though they take a human body, they are not restricted by the physical body but are instead the Masters of the body and can leave the body (extra corporeal activities) any time at their Will or Command.

Again, there are ascending Avatars also. But they are born through sex. They have taken the present body, due to their Karmic effect. And they have ascended and elevated themselves to Brahma Gyanis, due to their constant austerities and "Tapas" done during their life time, and partly due to merits acquired in their many past lives. They die a normal and natural death. They acquire some Siddhis, due to their Tapas and Sadhana, which grant them certain powers, over the five elements and the Universe.

"Now again, amongst the descending Avatars, there are POORNA AVATARS. Poorna Avatars are the Masters of the sixteen Kalas. The fifteen Kalas are : The five Karma Indriyas or working organs which have to do with talking,

taking, walking, rejecting (exertion) and eating. The five Gyan Indriyas or sense organs: hearing, touch, sight, taste, smell, and Panch Mahabhootas or the five elements: earth, water, fire, air, space. The 16th Kala: the all - knowing Paramatma (the Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent aspect)".

(These are Swami's words, quoted in 'Conversation with Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba' by J.S.Hislop)

So far there have been only two POORNA AVATARS, LORD KRISHNA, some 5000 years ago, and now BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA, endowed with all the 16 Kalas.

PROPHESIES

(a) Sri Maha Vishnu's tenth incarnation is that of Kalki. He will be born towards the end of the Kali age, the age replete with all kind of vice and godlessness. Dharma will limp only on one foot. Even that will gradually vanish.

At this time Sri Maha Vishnu will incarnate in the world as Kalki Deva, assuming black complexion. The wicked will perish and Dharma will regain its supremacy ushering in a new age.

(Predicted by Sri Pandrimalai Swamigal: taken from the book Dasavatara, by Shri S. Ramakrishna, Bharathi Vidhya Bhavan)

(b) Dr. E.V. Shastri, a prominent member of the Indian Astro Occult Research Association, New Delhi, during the course of his research, found out 'Nandi Grantham' available in Tamil Nadu, which had all the indications about Sathya Sai Baba's horoscope written by a famous erudite Pundit, some five hundred years ago. It was written on a piece of palm leaf of the size 36 centimeters long and 2 ½ cms broad. It reads : 'The person to whom this horoscope relates and whose name is Sathyanarayan Raju will renounce the world in his boyhood, will start schools and hospitals, will publish books for the upliftment of the World, will spend every day of his whole lifetime for the establishment of Dharma, which is his ideal and objective'. It is further mentioned that, "He will be an Avatar amongst the Avatars".

(Taken from the book 'The Grace of Sai' by R. Lowenberg)

(c) The advent of this Avatar Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was uniquely prophesied not only in some ancient books of Indian origin but also in books of other lands and religions. It is found that Baba's horoscope has been extolled in the Indian Palmyra "Naadi" scrolls of hundreds of years antiquity, containing prophesies by celebrated sages like Agastya, Brahma, Bhrgu, Buddha, Shuka and Shukra. Since there is said to be remarkable accord amongst the different Naadis interpreted by different and independent readers, we can confidently ascribe genuineness and credibility to those Naadi predictions. The following are the highlights of the prophesies contained in the Naadi scrolls as mentioned in Sai literature by various authors:

- He will be a great incarnation of the Godhead Vishnu, Shirdi Sai and several other Gods and Goddesses and will have all powers of God.
- He will be born for protecting and propagating Dharma (righteousness) and he will have a mission to fulfill.
- He will have healing powers and the power to cure himself by sprinkling water. He will use his healing powers not only for the people of this world, but also for the beings of the other worlds and on the higher planes of existence.(Devas, i.e. celestial gods and goddesses). At times He will take on the illness of the others.
- He will have power to extend the life of deserving persons. When the Kali yuga influence grows even more intense, people will see His true might and will acknowledge that He is the Supreme Power. Then mankind will bow to him as a great Emperor and He will be revered as the greatest living being, MAHAPURUSHA, in the world.
- Sri Sathya Sai Baba will perform great miracles.
- He will also retain youthful look, age notwithstanding.
- He will be Brahmachari. He will establish Ashrams, educational and medical institutions.
- He will have equal attitude towards all men and women. His glory will spread and many people will get near him. But all cannot have His grace due to past sins.
- He will be PREMA SWAROOPA, ANANDA SWAROOPA AND JNANA SWAROOPA. (Personification of Love, Bliss and Wisdom)
- He will show Himself in many places simultaneously, though He will actually be in one place and there will be many divine acts and manifestations.
- He will have the power to die whenever He wants.

(d) In an ancient Arabic book by name “Mehdi Moud” in which the prophecies made by Prophet Mohammed were recorded many centuries ago, it was mentioned that God Himself would descend on earth in human form with the following signs by which He could be recognised:

“His hair will be profuse. His front teeth will be spaced apart. He will have a mole on His cheek. He will not have beard but will be clean shaven. His clothing will be like flame. He will wear two robes. The colour of His face will sometimes be like copper, sometimes yellow like gold and sometimes like the moon. His legs will be those of a young girl. All the teachings of all the religions of the world will be in His heart from birth. All the science and knowledge of the world from the beginning of time will be in His head. He will give gifts that are light in weight, His devotees will crane their necks to see Him. He will live for 95 years on earth. In the last twenty years of His life time He will be the king of the whole world but at that time (A.D. 2000) only two-thirds of the world will believe Him. Muslims will only recognise Him nine years before His passing away from the world”.

(e) According to the world famous prophecy-maker Nostradamus who recorded his prophecies in his book “Centuries”, some 400 years ago, a very great leader would be born in South India (land surrounded by the three seas) He would have unlimited wisdom and power, and He would be an immortal ruler. With His efforts, world war would be over, and India’s spiritual message to humanity would spread far and wide. He would observe Thursday as the Holy Day.

(f) Sri Aurobindo, the great seer of modern India, who was in total penance for the descent of the Supernatural Power upon this Earth for the uplift of humanity, terminated his outside activities and went into complete solitude on 24th November, 1926. His reason for the withdrawal was that the embodiment of the Over mental Delight Consciousness, Lord Krishna, had once again come down to the terrestrial sphere. Suffice it to note that the advent of the Lord of our narrative had occurred just on the preceding day.

(Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba *is* born on 23rd November, 1926)

(g) Bhagawan Baba has also overwhelmed the Christian world by declaring that it was He who sent Christ to the world, and that His incarnation had, indeed been prophesied by Christ and recorded in the Bible over 1,900 years ago. The extract of that startling revelation made by Sri Sathya Sai Baba before a group of Christians on the Christmas Day in 1975 is given below:

“There is one point that I cannot but bring to your special notice today. At the time when Jesus was merging in the supreme principle of divinity, he communicated some news to his followers which has been interpreted in a variety of ways by commentators and those who relish the writings on writings and meaning upon meaning, until it is all swelled up into a huge mess. The statement itself has been manipulated and tangled in a conundrum. The statement is simple: “He who sent me among you, will come again”, and he pointed to a lamb. The lamb is, merely a symbol, a sign. It stands for the voice ‘Ba-Ba’; the announcement was of the advent of Baba. ‘His name will be truth’. Christ declared. ‘Sathya means Truth’. ‘He wears a robe of red, a blood red robe’. (Here Baba pointed to the robe He was wearing). ‘He will be short, with crown (of hair)’. The lamb is the sign and symbol of love. Christ did not declare that He would come again; He said ‘He who sent me will come again’. That Ba-Ba is this Baba’. (Pointing to Himself)

(‘Uniqueness of Swami And His Teachings’ by Dr. A. Adivi Reddy.)

(h) In the Bible Revelation 19 speaks of the God incarnate having come on a white horse which coincidentally is also the description of the Kalki Avatar predicted by the Hindu scriptures several thousands years ago. “ Its rider is called Faithful and True.” Sathya, the first name of Baba means Truth. “His eyes were like a flame of fire”. Baba’s eyes have such an intensity, are so full of life and seem to indicate with dazzling glow. “He wore many crowns on his head”. Baba’s Afro style hair gives it the appearance of a crown. “The robe he wore was covered with blood”, alludes to ochre robe that Baba wears. “His name is the word of God” is incidentally the meaning of Bhagawan.

(i) An article published in the November, 1985 issue of “Expans” magazine reported thus: Among the various prophecies made in ancient scriptures of world, and those by sages and seers as contained in palm leaf volumes carefully preserved by Sanskrit Scholars, none appears to be so amazing as the detailed account of the advent of Sai Baba, as an incarnation of God in 20th century as reported to have been given by Prophet Mohammed. According to the article published in “Two Worlds” magazine of London, an Iranian writer, browsing, in a book stall in Teheran, was irresistibly drawn to a huge volume. It was the 14th edition of the discourses of Mohammed, in 25 volumes “The Ocean of Light”. It is claimed that these discourses were collected together some seven hundred years after the prophet’s death. Volume 13 of these discourses is called “Mehdi Moud” in Arabic, which means “The Great Teacher that was promised”. The teacher is also referred to as “Master of the World”, “Master of Time”..etc., Mohammed is quoted by Peggy Mason as having indicated a large number of signs by which the great teacher could be recognised. Prominent amongst these hallmarks, which remarkably tally with Sai Baba, are as follows: All things you will ask from God, He will give you. All the treasures of the world are under His feet. He will give gifts that are light in weight. His devotees will collect under a great tree (the huge Banyan tree, that has been since removed in Brindavan campus). Many of them will have a spot on their forehead (the Hindu Kumkum dot). He will go around

amongst the devotees and touch their heads with His hand. Every eye that sees Him will be happy, not only humans but disembodied souls. His devotees will crane their necks to see Him. He will live for 95 years. He will live at hill (Prashanthi Nilayam is on a hill). His house will be square. He will make the world light and full of peace. So as not to be deceived, you should know that the Master of the World will bring things out of His body and through His mouth.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba has assured us that there is no reason for mankind to be extremely worried about the future, for the golden age of humanity is soon dawning. He has assured that Sathya Yuga shall start from 1999 and during the days of His next Avatar as Prema Sai which will be from 2030 onwards, the world will see the best period of human civilization. However, Baba says from now till 1999 there will be many natural calamities, but He will exercise His powers and influence as Avatar to prevent Nuclear War. He has told His devotees not to get out of the umbrella of His Divine Protective Grace lest they be subjected to harm at the hands of nature's fury which will indeed be raging till 1999.

(“Pralaya 1999”, by M. R. Narendra)

The author has mentioned in the beginning of this chapter about the characteristics (Signs) of an Avatar. Let us delve more on this: The story of Sri Krishna, universally accepted as Poorna Avatar - the Total Advent - is the clearest proof of the immaculate conception of the Divine Child. As the Bhagavatham narrates, the agony of Mother Earth compels the compassions of the Omni will into the resolve to incarnate as Sustainer, Solace and Saviour of mankind. Brahma hears the voice of the all pervasive God Vishnu that conveys the blessing and the boon to the suffering supplicants who have come before Him. He announces: “The Bhagawan Himself, the Almighty Resident in All, moved by His own Will, takes birth in the house of Vasudeva” (Vasudeva “Griha”).

After Devaki, the consort of Vasudeva, had given birth to seven children and had offered each one of them to her brother as she had promised, the Will decided that it was time for the Advent to take place. The Bhagavatham says : “The Lord who is the Sovereign of the Universe desired to enter the mind of Vasudeva as a facet of Himself in order to confer fearlessness on good and Godly”. ‘Amsa’, the Sanskrit word used in the text rendered here as ‘facet’, is usually interpreted as meaning ‘part’. But the Universal Absolute cannot be partitioned; the ancient commentator Anandagiri elucidates the word as ‘Svechha nirmithena maayaamayena Swaropena’ (with a body molded by His own Will and capable of deluding the World into the belief that it is human). “Then, that indestructible Divine principle which was destined to establish peace and prosperity in the World, was accepted into her mind, as the Eastern sky accepts the moon or as the pupil receives the illuminating mantra from the guru” .

The emphasis on the ‘Mana (mind) of both the father and the mother announces to us that the Avatar’s advent occurs in ultra-physical ways. The mother serves as the inaugural Vessel to contain the Cosmic Essence and allows it to unfold as its Will dictates.

The incarnation of the Buddha too was equally marvellous. The following lines are from the epic poem ‘Light of Asia’ by Edwin Arnold: ‘The Devas knew the signs and said, “Buddha will go again to help the World”. “Yes” spoke He. “Now I go to help the World. I will go down among the Sakyas under the Southward snows of Himalayas where pious people live and a just king”. That night the wife of king Sudhodana, Maya, the Queen, asleep beside her Lord dreamt a strange dream, “that a star from Heaven, splendid, six-rayed, in colour rosy-pearl, whereof the token was an Elephant, six tusked and white as milk of Kamadhenu, shot through the void and, shining into her entered her womb upon the right”. The Buddha formed the body for Himself within that maternal niche, conferring the status of father on Sudhodana, and Maya meditated on the Siddhartha moon, in the sky of her womb until the time when all could witness the glory of the child in the cradle.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was similarly blessed. “The Angel Gabriel was sent from God to Virgin spoused to a man whose name was Joseph of the House of David, and the Virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel said unto her, “Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in the womb and bring forth a son and shall call his name Jesus”.... Then said Mary unto the angel, “How this shall be, seeing I know not of a man?” And Angel answered unto her, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also the holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And so it did come to pass as the World knows.”

Swami has often declared that this Sai Avatar descended because the Saints and Sadhus of all the lands prayed for His arrival. “I chose the mother who was to experience My closeness during gestation. The Avatar alone has this freedom of choice. In other cases Karma determines the time and space, the group and the grade.

Years later as Swami sat one day surrounded by his devotees, there was an abrupt interruption. A Pundit well versed in the holy Puranas felt a sudden urge to ask a question. “Swami; was your Incarnation a Pravesa (an entrance) or a Prasava (Enciente)?” Shri N.Kasturi could not quite understand the relevance of the interruption that jolted everybody away from the jocular mood of the talk, but Swami knew the reason. Turning to Eswaramma seated in front, He said, “Tell Rama Sharma what happened that day near the well after your mother-in-law had warned you”. Mother said, “She had dreamed of Sathyanarayan Deva and she cautioned me that I should not be frightened if

something happens to me through the Will of God. That morning when I was at the well drawing water, a big ball of the blue light came rolling towards me and I fainted and fell. I felt, it glided into me". Swami turned to Rama Sharma with a smile. "There you have the answer; I was not begotten. It was Pravesa, not Prasava". (Thus a divine incarnation takes place by a process of impregnation which occurs by the Divine Will itself and not by the natural and normal human process)

To get back to the period when Eswaramma was pregnant. Kondama Raju had dreams of Venka Avadhootha in which he was instructing him to be prepared - but for what he was not told. And Pedda Venkapa Raju, the father, was awakened at night by sweet musical notes emanating from the string and percussion instruments kept in the 'rehearsal room'. Angels, Gandharvas, Kinnaras? Musical Ancestors? He knocked at the doors of astrologers. Telling them about his attempts to know what these meant, he described his tension at the time and the comforting explanation of an astrologer at Bukkapatnam was, "Is the music sweet and soothing?" he asked. "The notes and beats were thrilling," Pedda Venkapa Raju answered. "Is there a pregnant woman in the house?" When told "Yes", he predicted that the Gods were playing music to charm the baby in the womb. He recited a verse in Sanskrit from a book on horoscopes to please the bewildered father.

It had come at last, that moment chosen by the Lord to appear on Earth in His incarnated form. It was the month of Karthik, Monday. The day of worship for Siva, was about to glide into Tuesday, the day dedicated to Ganesh. It was 5.06 A.M. I.S.T. on 23rd November, 1926, and the reigning star was Aarudhra. From 4 O'clock that morning Lakshamma, the mother-in-law was at the Sathyanarayan Pooja at the home of the priest. She was called back home more than once as the delivery neared but she was determined not to return until she could bring back the deity's Prasadam for Eswaramma which she could procure only at the conclusion of the ceremony. At last she came, she gave. It was accepted and relished. And the son was born.

A mat covered with a thick bedspread had been readied in the corner of the room, when the labour had begun and now the baby was placed on it, by the grandmother. All of a sudden, they found the bedspread rising up and falling down, on either side of the baby. She grasped the child and held it close. A serpent was coiled beneath: of course snakes there were in plenty at Puttaparthi, creeping through crevices, crawling along the walls and hiding in the holes. But the serpent in the living room pretending to be in bed! - it was the role of Adisesha for Vishnu who rested on its coil; this was the Incarnation's first miracle. When Eswaramma was asked about this epic event, she confessed that she had been so filled with joy at the birth of a son that she had never even noticed the agitation all around.

The child was named Sathyanarayan. The association and affiliation of the human and divine were made plain by the Name. It announces that the child being Narayana was Sathya (Truth). God as Sathyanarayan had entered the minds of the mother and grandmother and filled the house of the Rathnaakara Raju with Divine Melody and Fragrance. Narayana coming as Sathya was the consummation for which the world had long yearned.

(‘Eswaramma, the chosen Mother’, by N.Kasturi, Ex- Editor, “Sanathana Sarathi”)

As regards the birth-marks on the body of the Avatar, a few persons, including some students, who live very close to Swami, have noticed the eagle-shaped birthmark on the chest of Swami.

Another strong evidence of the Divinity of Sai Baba comes from an altogether different source, Frank Baranowski, a Professor at the University of Arizona in the United States. He has the distinction of being an undisputed expert in the study of the halo that surrounds each person. According to him the aura surrounding the face of a person speaks volumes about his personality and character. The aura around the faces of ordinary mortals is nondescript and often null and void. But in the case of a person who is superhuman and embodiment of love, the aura is expansive and its luster extends to the sky which is limitless. Frank Baranowski was bewildered and enthralled to see the aura surrounding the face of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. According to him, it was a white and pink aura, the colour of love. The aura became golden like the Sun and turned into the blue colour of love when the Bhajans were sung. This aura signified the boundless energy of love. The eyes shone with diamond like brilliance. Professor Baranowski had no hesitation in affirming that the aura-wise Sri Sathya Sai Baba is God. During his long career, he had the occasion to see the aura of many famous and illustrious persons. But never before had he witnessed the white, pink and blue aura stretching upon the azure sky above, spreading the golden hues of Sun and the diamond-like brilliance transmitting the tremendous energy of love.

(“Sai Baba, the Rose Fire of Heaven”, by Krishna Nandan Sinha)

THE MIRACLES ARE MY VISITING CARDS

Baba proclaims that His Miracles are His Visiting Cards, to attract His devotees at the initial stage to come to Him. Initially He wants to give them whatever they want from Him, but ultimately He wants to give them, what He has come to give them - that is the Bliss (Ananda). This He is doing out of His love for His devotees.

We mortal beings also play the same trick with our children. When they attain the age of joining the school, most of the children are reluctant to go to school. Parents lure them by telling them that if they go to school, they will get a chocolate from the teacher. The chocolates have been already handed over by the parents, to the teacher, to be given

to their children. Hence the child is lured and agrees to go school. But finally the child learns to study in the school, which is the sole purpose of the parents - to give education to their children.

Hence I would liken Baba's Miracles to an act of Compassion towards His devotees, rather than an act of winning the adoration of many people and bringing them into His fold, as the critics believe. Baba is least bothered about His glory or the criticism, as He declares that His Miracles are His natural and normal phenomena and is produced out of His divine Sankalpa (Will).

Here it is what Swami Himself says about His materialisations: "Many of you are under the mistaken notion that all My materialisations have worldly significance; it is a gross mistake; don't think like this. These (Materialisations) are ladders that shall enable you to ascend to a bright and ideal future. So long as you are in possession of such sacred objects, only pious thoughts will be generated in you.

Miracles are an innate part of Me. I was with them. They are not acquired after birth through Yogic practices. That is why Swami not only uses these powers freely but extensively over a very wide range for the propagation of the objective for which He has incarnated Himself on Earth. The Avatar is Omnipresent and Omnipotent. Baba's Miracles show clearly that He is not bound by Time, qualities, and Nature. He is beyond everything. He is everything and everywhere, as the indweller of the Heart. He is the Eternal Witness.

(“Sanathana Sarathi”, February, 1998 issue, page: 48, Article by Mata Betty, New Zealand)

Here, only a few of the many Miracles performed by Bhagawan Baba are selected - only the most unique and astounding ones, which only an Avatar can perform, are reproduced.

Author's own experience with Bhagawan Baba:

■ On one occasion, I lost my temper and became so wild with my wife that I was full of remorse and regret for the rest of the day. After two days there were Bhajans at my residence. While I was performing the Aarathi, (the gentle waving of the burning camphor in front of the Lord) to the accompaniment of collective singing of a melodious verse (invoking Him) the fifth wick (flame) stopped burning. (When I perform the Aarathi, I light five wicks). I did not like this and was in a fix as to what to do and started praying to Baba. Right at that moment the fourth wick, which was burning straight until then suddenly, stretched itself sideways to light up the fifth wick. I felt immensely happy that Baba had responded to my prayer instantaneously.

This experience gave me a sudden urge to go to Puttaparthi, and be at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Baba. There was perhaps no logical reason for this intense feeling. It was only an intuition and I did act. I succeeded in getting a first-class ticket released from the V.I.P quota and reached Prashanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi on 1st March, 1982. While I was in the train, I was repenting about getting angry at my wife and hurting her feelings. I was even praying to Baba for His forgiveness.

On 2nd March, 1982, in the Darshan line, Baba came near me. I spoke to Him and said, "Baba, these are the letters which some devotees have given me. They need your help. Not only they need your help but I also need your help, as I have also disobeyed you". He took the letters and signaled me to go for the interview. This was my second interview with Baba, but this time without my wife. Baba in the inner interview room told me, "Bahut Gussa Karte ho, control bhi nahi kar pate ho, ghar me bhi Shanthi nahi hai, do din se bol rahe ho ke maf karo, maf karo". (You have a very bad temper, you are not able to control it even, and there is no peace even in the house, for the last two days you have been saying: forgive me, forgive me). I was not able to take quietly this reprimand from Baba. I cried like a small baby, who is hit hard by somebody and is bleeding profusely. I replied, "But Baba, you know the reason behind this episode". I put my head on Baba's Lotus Feet and tears from my eyes were pouring on His soft Lotus Feet. It appeared that He did not mind this at all. He took all my inside agony on His Lotus Feet and I said, "Baba, I do not want anything in my life; please make me an instrument to serve you". At this stage, His Divine Heart melted. He lifted me up with both of His hands and said, "Come, you are mine, I am yours, I will give you service". Could I have ever desired to hear anything better than this from Baba?

■ On another occasion, my brother who was in Doha (Qatar), was bringing his wife to Bombay, as she happened to be in an acute state of depression. She had all her passports, visas and their return tickets in her hand bag. While getting down from the taxi at Bombay, she forgot her hand bag in the taxi. On tracing the taxi, it was found that the taxi driver after dropping my brother at Mahim, took another person in the taxi, and dropped him at V.T. Station. Thinking that the hand bag belonged to that passenger, the taxi driver handed it over to the new passenger, who left for Madras on that very day. This happened in the year 1983.

I started praying to Baba to help my brother in getting their passports and visas back. To get duplicate of these documents for Gulf countries is rather difficult. There was the danger of my brother even losing his job. About a fortnight after this incident, a miracle happened. Baba listened to my prayers and one day, when I went to see my mother who stayed at Mahim, I received a registered packet addressed to my brother, who had at that time gone to Colaba to visit our sister. On opening it, I found the passports, visas, and the air journey return tickets, all intact. My joy knew no bounds and I immediately rang up my brother at Colaba, and Oh: with what unexplainable joy he

received the news. “Oh, Baba,” I thought, “how can I thank you for all this favour received from you. I can only say that you are Sarvaantaryami. (the indweller in all; one, who is in everything)”.

■ The third most astounding thing happened, on the 1st of March, 1993. The time was 7.30 a.m at Puttaparthi. Baba came out of His room, moved amongst the devotees, and took myself and a friend of mine for the interview. This was my 8th interview with Baba. In the inner interview room where only two of us were with Baba, my friend started conversing with Baba on various aspects of his own life, such as health, office and family matters. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I took the liberty of gently massaging Baba’s legs, which Baba did not mind, rather, He allowed me to continue. Indeed, how fortunate I was to have been granted the favour of doing this kind of Seva to the Divine incarnation!

After finishing with my friend, He told me, “Remove the watch which you are wearing and keep it in your shirt pocket. As you are getting old, I am going to give you another watch so that you value time”. He also further added, “Live in present which is Omnipresent”. And the last and the most important thing He asserted to me was, “Your business is slack, do not think about money, but think of your mind”.

Suddenly Baba started getting up; neither he gave me the promised watch, nor another ring to my friend. We two arose quickly, took Pada Namaskar and made our exit from the inner interview room along with Him. There in the presence of all others, He took the ring from my friend’s finger, showed it to everybody and then blew on it; ‘Lo and Behold’, it turned out to be a beautiful gold ring with a picture of Lord Krishna, but this time in His childhood posture of Bala Gopala.

Baba was talking with some other people also in the interview room when suddenly; He looked at me and asked me, “What do you want?” I replied, “Swami I want you”, to which He shook his head in the negative and asked me to move closer to Him. He waved His hand in a circular manner and there appeared in His Divine Hand a beautiful quartz watch ‘Pierre Nicol’ automatic with day and date operation. He put the watch on my wrist and I kept my head on His Lotus Feet and He blessed me. At that moment I felt I was the happiest person at any time in my whole life and my joy knew no bounds. Even if I had been honored with a gold medal from the President of India, I would not have felt so happy. I cannot express my happiness in proper words and I can only say that this too has to be experienced and realised. Here it would be pertinent to refer to my very first interview when I asked Baba, “Can you please materialize something and give it to me? And Baba had replied, “Dega, Dega” (will give, will give). This He told me in November, 1981 and He materialized the watch for me in March, 1993, after nearly 12 years. This precious gift of Baba is really cherished by me and it protects me and enables me to communicate with Him.

Experiences of many other people, to prove that Baba is Divine:

■ In the year 1960, the United State of America and the Soviet Russia piled up nuclear weapons capable of annihilating the entire mankind and were waiting for an opportunity to strike. When Cuba issue came up, both USA and USSR took up arms to wage a war. This incident is known as the “Bay of Pigs”. The devotees of our Baba in that area rushed to Swami, calling upon Him to avoid the war: Our Bhagawan assured them that as long as He is there, His devotees would be protected and no destruction would take place. He added further that the world is now passing through the age of 7th Manu and even some more Manus have to come before the destruction of the world.

There was no nuclear war in 1960. The super powers are now engaged in nuclear disarmament. From this incident we can observe the qualities of Varaha Avatar in our Swami, i.e., protection of the earth and mankind.

We have also seen our Swami manifesting the jewels like CHOODAMANI worn by Sita in Treta Yuga and also the jewel KOUSTHUBA adorned by Lord Krishna. After showing to all of us, He used to demanifest them. It is the Will of the Supreme.

(“Sai Supreme Personality of Godhead”, by T.G. Krishna Moorthy)

■ In the year 1996, during Christmas celebrations at Puttaparthi, after the morning Darshan, in the presence of fifty thousand people, Swami announced and said, “Today, I am going to reproduce the miniature of the original Bible, which the Russians had drowned in the Black Sea, centuries ago. And lo: and behold, with a wave of His hand a beautiful mini Bible appeared in His hand. Baba’s photograph was taken, at the time of materialising this Bible from the air. The photograph is available at Puttaparthi.

■ Mrs. Jones was a very staunch devotee of Baba, but her husband never believed in Baba and used to refer Baba as, “Oh, that character”. However, the wife was able to convince her husband to come to India once and meet Baba. In the plane, while proceeding to India, the husband told to his wife that, “I will only believe that Baba is God, if he could show me a rainbow, during bright sunshine”.

On reaching Prashanthi Nilayam, Swami did not call them for the interview during the morning Darshan. Both husband and wife were relaxing on a bench in a garden and there was a bright sunshine. Suddenly Mr. Jones shouts and tells his wife, “Look Irene, I can see the Rainbow”. During the evening Darshan, Swami called them for the interview and in the inner room, tapped the shoulder of the husband and told him, “Hellow that character, how did you like my rainbow”. Mr. Jones had no words to speak. He silently fell at His Lotus Feet.

■ In one of the interviews granted by Swami, to a few chosen devotees, one devotee challenged Swami and told Him, "I can believe that you are God, if you can produce a live monkey, right here, in this room?" Swami replied to him, "I can produce the monkey, but then it would be your responsibility to look after it?" The devotee thought that it was impossible for Swami to produce a live monkey, so he agreed to the proposal. Swami waved His hand, and there came the monkey, from the wall, moving and jumping: Swami held the monkey in His lap and then passed it on to the devotee, to be taken care of. The devotee was in a dilemma as he was a foreigner, and would not know what to do, in such circumstances. He profusely repented and begged for Swami's pardon, for doubting His Divinity, and Swami out of His compassion waved His hand again and the monkey disappeared, as if it was never there. (This was narrated to the author by a very close devotee of Swami, whose information could be taken as authentic).

■ One of the Swami's students who had joined the school recently, and was not very certain about Swami's Divinity, used to smoke cigarettes secretly, in the remote corner of the hostel. Once Swami called him and asked him, "Do you smoke?" He replied in the negative. Swami showed him in the Palm of His Hand, and he could see like in a movie the entire scene, how he is moving out of the hostel room, going to secluded place, taking out a cigarette packet from his pocket, lighting a cigarette with a match stick, and enjoying a smoke to his heart's content. Swami did not have to mention anything to him. The whole scene became the reality. You can imagine the plight of the boy. But Swami forgave him, with a reprimand, not to do it again.

■ In the year 1973, Dr. John S. Hislop, along with some other devotees, was moving with Swami, in Bandipur Game Sanctuary in Mysore State, along the bank of the sandy river. As they passed through the bush Swami broke off two twigs, placed them together and asked Hislop, "What is this, Hislop?"

"Well, Swami it is cross", Hislop answered. Baba then closed His fingers over the twigs and directed three some what slow breaths into His fist, between the thumb and forefinger. Then, He opened His hand to reveal a Christ figure crucified on a Cross, and He gave it to Hislop. He said, "This shows Christ as he really was at the time when He left His body, not as artists have imagined Him or as historians have told about Him. His stomach is pulled in and His ribs are all showing. He had no food for 8 days".

Hislop looked at the Crucifix, but found no words. Then Baba continued, "The wood in the cross is from the actual Cross on which Christ was crucified. To find some of the wood after 2000 years took a little time; the image is of Christ after He died. It is a dead face". Hislop noticed some thing odd and asked, "Swami what is that hole at top of the Cross?" Baba replied that the Cross had been originally hung from a standard.

("My Baba and I" by John S. Hislop)

In America, a video cassette entitled, 'An Aura of Divinity', has been produced by Richard Bock showing Hislop holding the Cross, materialised by Baba, in his hand, and giving the above commentary.

■ Professor Krishna Nandan Sinha has given a vivid experience of his wife Malti at Prashanthi Nilayam, in his book, 'Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Absolute Sole Lord of Life and Death'.

Malti Sinha, wife of Krishna Nandan Sinha was at Prashanthi Nilayam during the birthday celebrations of Bhagawan Baba. After the Darshan, she along with her friend Prema, daughter of Sri Atri were walking in a leisurely fashion on the streets of the Nilayam and were talking intimately about their experiences about Swami and comparing notes, suddenly there was commotion on the street and among the passersby, the red sleek imported car of Swami was seen coming out of the Ashram gate - the reason for people lining up on both sides of the street. The car moved slowly amidst the assembled devotees and moved in the direction of Gokulam. The activity in the narrow and congested street continued as before and both the ladies proceeded towards a photo shop, still animated by having a close view of Swami.

After purchasing Swami's photographs, they were returning to the Ashram, walking slowly, still in their conversation when Prema said, "Look, Swami's car is returning. Let us line up and stand on the pavement".

Driven by a strange inner impulse Malti whispered, "I wish Swami's car ran me down and trampled me so that every particle of my flesh and bone and each drop of my blood flies to Him and scatters over the Lotus Feet, a real consummation of my desire:". Suddenly a strange thing happened. The car came very fast and there was grating noise of the clutch and the brake. The car stopped just a yard from the place where Malti was standing. The passersby were all surprised and clustered around the car. Swami opened the door of the car and beckoned to her. Malti drew near Him in a nervous and apprehensive frame of mind.

Swami smiled affably and asked her, "Shall I ask the driver to run you over and trample you down so that every portion of your flesh and bone and each drop of your blood flies to me and pour over my feet like a sacred fountain?" At that moment there was not a single drachma of blood within Malti that did not tremble, as she recognised the token of Divine love. But she hardly had courage enough to look at Him full in the face or bend down to touch His Lotus Feet. It was Swami Himself who directed her with a gesture of His hand to touch His Feet. He was looking at her tenderly as the car moved slowly in the direction of the Ashram gate.

(‘Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Absolute Sole Lord of Life and Death’ by Krishna Nandan Sinha)

■ In 1993 between Dasara and Diwali, a unique Leela came to light. A group of Sai devotees from Australia were taken into the interview room on Baba’s instructions. Out of the eleven devotees one was crying uncontrollably. On being questioned by Baba, he said that his wife was extremely ill and due to anxiety for her he was weeping. The loving and Divine - playing Lord authoritatively asked, “So, would you like to be transported to your wife?” The answer was, “Yes” : The method Lord Sai employed to transport the Australian was unique. He hit the adjacent wall three times with His fist and immediately the weeping devotee started seeing the country of Australia on the wall. When He hit His fist for the fourth time, the Australian saw his town on the wall. On hitting His fist for the fifth time the Australian started seeing his house. Then Baba asked the weeping devotee, “Is this your house?” “Yes”, was the reply. Baba replied, “Go, and meet your wife in your house”. That person entered his house and went near his sick wife. At the end of the interview only ten people came out of the interview room and not the eleventh. The people outside came to know about the happenings and, though extremely surprised, also had doubts whether the eleventh person actually reached his house. On investigating the above, it was confirmed that at the time of the person entering his house through the wall at Baba’s command (In Prashanthi Nilayam), at that very moment he had entered his house in Australia.

(‘The Wonderful Leelas of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba’ by Anil Kumar Malhotra)

(A) Lord Krishna says in the Gita, “I give you the Divine eye, Behold you Arjuna, My Real Nature”. Similarly Sai Krishna, too, selected a few of us for this most blessed and Divine Darshan. As soon as we reached the bank of the Chitravathi, Swami told us to look steadily at the spot where the tamarind tree stood. Within a split second, He disappeared from our midst, and we saw a streak of yellow light moving fast like lightning in a wave: Then we heard His voice from yonder, as though from a mike, “Kanapadu thunnana?”, meaning “Am I visible?” Soon, we saw a powerful light - so powerful and large that I can not compare it with any of the lights visible on earth. We named that sight ‘Jyothi Darshanam’. This Jyothi was seen even by some devotees traveling on bullock cart, from Bukkapatnam to Puttapparthi. Some time Swami used to refer to that single Jyothi Darshan as that of His third eye (Nethra Darshan or Hrudaya Darshan)

(B) Ms. M.L. Leela writes in her book ‘Lokanatha Sai’ about her own experience. “In June, 1971, I was expecting my promotion as professor. I learnt from the newspaper that my junior had been promoted. I was shocked. How can such a irregularity creep in, even in Government service? When I traced the source of this maneuver, I found to my great shock and surprise that the recommending authority had omitted my name from the list. The reason was my inability to leave Madras, as I had been managing a temple. I discovered that the post of professor of Botany had already been created at Government Arts College for Women, North Madras, and the post was vacant. I went to the authorities concerned and told them about the vacancy and requested to post me there. They were annoyed at my request. “Never dream of the post in Madras: this post has been created for a particular person” . I undauntedly asked the authorities how a special post could be created in a Government Department for the benefit of one person.

I had none else other than my Swami, Sri Sathya Sai. I rushed to His abode. As soon as He saw me in tears while prostrating at His Holy Feet even without listening to my petition, He said, “ Go back to Madras immediately. Sit in the usual place in the temple. I will do the needful”. Immediately I left Puttapparthi. I was in Guindy Mandir next morning by seven. I sat in my usual place. Dr. T.K. Govindarajan, a devotee, who used to visit the temple frequently, suddenly appeared. He had arrived from Delhi, after a break of three years. My brother in Delhi was worried about my long silence. Hence he had requested him to visit me immediately and write to him about my welfare. Then I explained to him in details about my plight. He said that he could easily tackle the situation, as his own elder brother was the person to be approached. This reply soothened me so much that I suddenly remembered Baba’s words: “Sit in your usual place in the temple. I will do the needful”. I heaved a sigh of relief and left for my college. In the next few hours, my Principal told me that I had been wanted at the Secretariat. I rushed there. At the entrance, I met the person who had met me in the temple. He led me in and said that my posting order had already been signed by the Secretary: I was literary shocked and could not even hear his words properly. He instructed me to go back to the college, take the posting order and join immediately at the Government Arts College for Women, North Madras, as professor and Head of the Department of Botany: A special messenger was sent with my posting order to my Principal. She was also given a phone message to relieve me immediately. When I reached my College, the Principal was waiting with the relieving order: time 5.30 P.M. I remembered the words of Swami. “Sai Sankalpa is Vajra Sankalpa”.

(‘Lokanatha Sai’, by Professor Ms. M.L. Leela)

■ One evening, Swami Sadananda was seated with Bhagawan Baba at the bungalow in Kodaikanal. Leaning on his bed, Baba was in conversation with Sadananda. All of a sudden He stood up and shouted; “Don’t shoot” and then He fell down unconscious. Baba’s body became chill and stiff. He left His mortal body and wandered somewhere. After He woke up, Baba instructed a telegram to be sent to Bhopal. It read, “Don’t worry: the instrument is with Me”. In response to this on the fourth day there was a reply telegram from Bhopal; it was from a high officer in the armed services.

Subsequent to the partition of the states of the country, the sub-ordinates of this officer were promoted to a higher rank leaving him behind. Frustrated at this and humiliated, the officer had decided to commit suicide. His wife and children were sent away to his in-law's place. He decided to shoot himself. It was exactly at this juncture, Baba at Kodaikanal had shouted, "Don't shoot".

At Bhopal, when the officer was about to shoot himself he heard someone knocking at the door. Hurriedly he hid the revolver under his bed and went to the door. On opening he found to his surprise that his friend with his family, bed and baggage had come to stay with him. He took them into the house. They were talking together for a long time. After knowing that the wife of the officer away and not wanted to trouble him, the friend said that they would stay in another friend's house and departed.

The officer then bolted the door from within and tried to reach out for the revolver. To his dismay, it was not found at the place where he had kept it. His search of the entire house proved to be in vain. He could not locate the revolver. He ran up to the house of the common friend to whose house his guest had gone. To his total surprise, he came to learn that his guests had not come there. Utterly disgusted and dismayed, he returned to the house.

He heard the knock again on the door. There was the postman waiting to deliver the telegram from Baba, containing the message, "Don't worry, the instrument is with Me". Only then could he realise that it was Baba who had taken the form of his friend, wife and servant to dissuade him from the suicidal attempt. Who else could have enacted such a drama to save a devotee?

(‘Sathyam, Sivam and Sundaram’ by N. Kasturi)

WITH THIS INCIDENT BHAGAVAN PROVES HIS 16TH KALA OF BEING OMNISCIENT, OMNIPOTENT AND OMNIPRESENT, BY MULTIPLYING HIMSELF AND TAKING THREE DIFFERENT FORMS AT THE SAME TIME, AS LORD KRISHNA DID, WHILE PERFORMING RASA LEELA WITH SO MANY GOPIKAS AND EACH GOPIKA VISUALISING THAT THE LORD KRISHNA WAS PRESENT ONLY WITH HER.

■ Sai Baba, who incarnated as Lord Krishna, explained to an assembly of students some of the mystical significance of the latter's acts and insignia and recalls Sri Krishna's three pledges to humanity: to incarnate from age to age for Dharma's sake; to bear the burden of peace and prosperity to Bhaktas who surrender to Him; and to save and liberate them. Swami calls the present generation fortunate to have Krishna again in their midst and materialised the famed Kousthuba jewel that Krishna wore, showing it to His audience. He exhorts His young listeners to have steady faith in Sai Krishna, who will guard and guide them and shower grace upon them.

Swami manifested the Lingobhava Time-Space Embodiment in the shape of an egg, before the assembled audience at the Poornachandra Auditorium on Shivarathri in 1974. The audience had passed the night in Namasmarana or repetition of the name. Baba tells them that, out of the world's millions, only they have come, remained through the night and witnessed the holy manifestation. He tells them no greater fortune can befall on man. Thereby they have earned the merit enormous enough to win liberation - total freedom from the cycle of birth and death. He exhorts them to live thereafter as befits the recipients of this rare Grace.

(‘The Essential Sai’ by Sainet Editorial Committee Vancouver, Canada, Nov.23, 1995)

■ Mata Betty of New Zealand writes about one of her most astounding experience. She writes, "One afternoon in 1983, we were at home together when an astounding incident took place. Sai manifested Himself in our living room, appearing to us in His full physical form - even sitting in the high-backed carved wooden chair that you see Him sitting in at His Ashram in India. And Jim and I completely lost track of time, as Sai spoke to us at length about many, many personal matters known only to us. I can't even say how long He was there. When at last this wondrous visitation faded it was evening. But it was an unforgettable event. This occurred just before onset of my husband's heart attack.

(‘Sathya Sai Baba And The Universal Reality of Mankind’ by Mata Betty)

■ Once when Sai Baba was on His way to Bangalore (about 170 kilometers away from Puttaparthi), His car came to a stop because the petrol having leaked out completely due to the damage caused by a stone to the petrol tank. Sai Baba asked His driver to fetch a bucket of water, stirred the water with His hand and asked the driver to pour it in to the petrol tank of the car. The driver did so and the car reached the destination with the water which had been turned into petrol by Sai Baba.

During one of His trips, Sai Baba was walking on the Seashore at the southern most tip of India, at Kanyakumari. The members of Sai Baba's group were thrilled to see a necklace of peerless pearls, strung on gold thread, being brought by wave of the ocean and offering it at the Lotus Feet of Swami.

Sai Baba's loving response to the distress call (in the form of a heart-felt prayer) of a couple who were His devotees, from Paris, made the wallet containing lost traveller's cheques reappear by themselves in the lady's purse next morning.

(‘Sai Baba, The Source of Light, Love And Bliss’ by Kailash Kumar and Jorgen Hovgaard)

■ A Catholic Priest, Don Mario Mazzoleni, narrated an incident witnessed by him at Puttaparthi. He writes, “In August of 1988, Sai Baba had an “accident”. I happened to be at Prashanthi Nilayam at that time. The Avatar slipped on a piece of soap in the bathroom and fell, breaking His thigh bone. For several days He did not come out, and He was not giving Darshan, but one day, August 26, He came to the Poornachandra Hall, and gave a discourse for the Holy Day of Onam. The faith of many people was shaken by the “accident” of Swami’s. They did not understand it was a test and also a lesson through which Baba demonstrated how we should behave when we are in pain. Here is an excerpt from the discourse, which He gave, standing, for an hour and a quarter, with no signs of being tired, without a single grimace of pain:

“Swami’s capacity of control and endurance can’t easily be understood; only doctors and those who have suffered a similar fracture know something of it. I was directed to rest for 4 weeks. But I do not know what rest is, I do not feel the need for it. I have My duty to fulfill. Many people have written to Me to say that I should have cured Myself immediately of this tiresome fracture. But no, there is no need. They are little things which can happen occasionally. I am not sick. It is almost impossible for Me to stand, the pain is so unbearable... but I smile about it, and this is the sign of My Divinity. Some devotees pray and think that Swami could heal Himself in a moment. Even though this is possible, Swami is not a person affected by egoism. When someone is wounded or sick, I do not heal him immediately. Everything has its time...it is necessary to suffer, until the proper moment arrives. Nonetheless it is possible to develop the power to divert the mind in order to control the pain and not to allow oneself to be overcome by problems and difficulties....Why should I worry about this body? This body is not Mine, it belongs to you and I do not want to interfere. Your bodies, on the other hand, are Mine and if they cause you troubles, I take care of it. Nothing can make Me suffer, nothing can harm Me”.

(‘A Catholic Priest Meets Sai Baba’ by Don Mario Muzzoleni)

■ Dr. S. Bhagwantham, a renowned Nuclear Physicist, and Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, also narrates his unique experiences with Sathya Sai Baba. He says:

“I have a background of science. How I reconcile this with what Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba does is a question which has troubled me much. I will relate a few things, which I hope will furnish some kind of answer to it. It is only my personal experience...

I have seen miracles performed by Baba, perhaps in thousands, and my long association with Him has brought me to a position where I do not attach much importance to miracles. Let me return to the fact that I am a scientist, and have a rational way of thinking. This incident which I will narrate to you relate to several years ago, when I was very proud to be a scientist. It was just by chance that I came in contact with Baba. Somebody told me that He is a Divine person. I must caution here, scientists think that science means learning a discipline such as Physics or Chemistry and that anything else is not worth heeding. This showed a closed mind which is very contrary to what science teaches. Science teaches that you should not have prejudice that you should not come to the judgment before you apply your own mind to decide something. Unfortunately, many people who are half-learned come to a judgment either by using some logic or by using somebody else’s experience. This is very unscientific. There were only a hundred people with Baba one evening and He said, “Shall we go for a walk?” And we walked down to Chitravathi river adjoining His Ashram...

We sat down on the sand. He started provoking me saying that all scientists are atheists, and all scientists want everything to be demonstrated before they can believe it. They ask, “Is there God?” They want to see God. They cannot see God, they say there is no God. Unless they see something they do not believe it. And you are also like that. Don’t you believe in God? Don’t you believe in Divinity? Don’t you believe in our tradition and scriptures? I told Him, “Baba, one does not have to learn anything to become an atheist. There are many people who are ignorant, who are not learned and who do not believe in God. There are many who are learned and the more learned you get, the more unbelieving you become. Many people believe in God. So learning science, or learning anything has nothing to do with believing in God. I come from a family of good tradition. My father and grandfather were all Sanskritists; they believed in God. ; yet on account of modern trend I have learnt science to earn a living. Although I cannot say that I am very religious, you should not conclude that I do not believe in God.

I narrated the story of a distinguished American Scientist, Oppenheimer, known as the father of the Atomic Bomb. I told Him that when the first nuclear explosion occurred, Oppenheimer was asked what he thought of the nuclear explosion and it is on record that Oppenheimer quoted a verse from the Bhagavad Gita. He said that the brilliance of such an act can only be described in the language used by Arjuna when he had the manifestation of the Lord. Arjuna described it by saying that the brightness is as if there were one thousand Suns shining in the sky.

I said, “If an American can quote an Indian text at the height of his scientific experiment, why do you think I, an Indian of a traditional family, do not respect Indian tradition and texts?”

I narrate this to show that the conversation had been led by me, that the Gita was brought into conversation by me. Then He said, “Oh, I see, so you believe in the Bhagavad Gita? And you a scientist respect the Bhagavad Gita, read the Bhagavad Gita?”

Again, the rational in me asserted itself, and I said, “Of course I respect, of course I read it, but I will read only if I want to”.

There were a hundred people sitting there and He lifted a handful of sand with both hands and asked me to stretch out my hand and put out the sand into my hands and under my very eyes it turned into a small text of Bhagavad Gita. You can see the sequence of event that I chose the place, I say that because it could have happened that some one planted the Bhagavad Gita in the sands. I brought in the conversation of Bhagavad Gita.

The rational in me said if it is a printed text, it must be printed in some press. Immediately I asked Baba, “You said that it is a printed text of Bhagavad Gita, where has it been printed?” I said in the hope that I would be creating a small problem for Him. The man who was greatly disturbed was myself and the one who was completely undisturbed and was enjoying the conversation was Baba. He smiled and said, “ Yes, it has been printed in the Sai Press” . Well Bhagavatam, I would like to know what science has got to say about it. In fact, it can't say anything about what has happened... this went on year after year. One day we were sitting on the shore of Cape Camorin. On the sea shore, there were about 20 people around Him. He was playing with the water in the sea. He was asking some people how we address the ocean. One young man said that an ocean is called Rathnaakara. Then He commented, “If it is called Rathnaakara, it must contain Ratnas or diamonds and the ocean should give us diamonds”. I said, “Yes Baba, if You wish, You can get diamonds”.

The people present wanted to see how He was going to get the diamonds from the ocean. “Oh, Yes” He said, in His Leela, in a childish way and took a handful water from the ocean, and the water became a beautiful little diamond necklace in His hand. He showed it to me and said, “What shall we do with it?”

Even then I could see that the production of the necklace itself was pretty difficult. When he asked what should be done with it, I noticed that the necklace was a small one and as He had a big head. I thought I should ask Him to wear it. Then He said, “Oh: I see, I should wear it”. Then He held the necklace tight in His hand; it became a bigger necklace and He put it around His head and looked at me and said, “Well I have worn it”.

I can relate several such incidents at the end of which He was generous enough to recognise that I have this conflict in me of trying to reconcile two opposing point of views. This went on for three years, and at the end of three years, at a public meeting at Madras, where there were more than ten thousand people present, I was forced to admit that as a man of science I tried to find a rational and logical explanation for all that I had seen, but I had failed. There are many things that science cannot explain, things which are beyond science. Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is not subject to the ordinary laws of science. He is beyond science and what He does cannot be explained by normal laws of science. Thereafter He stopped performing miracles for me. Another interesting facet of Baba is His ability to be present at different places at the same time. Physical presence is something which I really cannot describe. I can explain history, but divinity cannot be explained.

(‘Lord of Miracles! Sai Baba and His Message’ by Sathya Pal Rusida and Duane Robinson)

BRINGING DEAD PERSONS TO LIFE

■ The resurrection of Radhakrishna, a factory owner of Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, resembles very closely to the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus Christ. Howard Murphet describes the incident vividly, exactly as it happened. He had researched on it and found it fully authentic. In the words of Howard Murphet: One evening Radhakrishna went into a coma and his breathing was that of a dying man. Alarmed, the wife dashed off to see Swami. The latter came to the room, looked at the patient, and said, “Don't worry, everything will be all right”, and left. On the next day, the patient was still unconscious, Hemchand, his son-in-law, brought a male nurse of the district to examine the patient. The nurse gave his opinion that Radhakrishna was so near death that there was no possibility of saving him. An hour later the patient became very cold. The three anxious relatives heard what they thought was the death rattle in his throat and watched him turning blue and stiff. Vijaya and her mother went to see Baba who was at that time upstairs in his dining room. When they told Him that Radhakrishna seemed to be dead, He laughed and walked away to His bedroom. Vijaya and her mother returned to the room of the ‘dead’ man and waited. After a while, Swami came in and looked at the body, but went away without saying or doing anything.

That was the evening of the second day since Mr. Radhakrishna had become unconscious. The whole of the next night passed, while the three stayed awake and anxiously watched for any signs of returning life, there were no signs. Yet they still had faith that Baba would somehow or the other, in His own way, save Radhakrishna, for had He not said that everything would be all right? On the morning of the third day the body was more than ever like a corpse - dark, cold, quite stiff and beginning to smell. Other people who came to see and sympathise told Mrs. Radhakrishna that she should have the corpse removed from the Ashram. But she replied, “Not unless Swami orders it”. Some even went to Baba and suggested that, as the man was dead and the body smelling of decomposition, it should be either sent back to Kuppam or cremated at Puttaparthi. Swami simply replied, “We'll see”.

When Mrs. Radhakrishna went upstairs again to tell Baba what people were saying and asked Him what she should do, He answered, "Do not listen to them, and have no fear. I am here". Then He said that He would come down to see her husband soon.

She went down again and waited, with her daughter and son-in-law by the body. The minutes dragged by - an hour passed - but Swami did not come. Then, when they were beginning to despair entirely, the door opened, and there stood Baba in His red robe, copious hair and shining smile. It was then about half-past-two in the afternoon of the third day. Mrs. Radhakrishna went towards Baba and burst into tears. Vijaya too began to cry. They were like Martha and Marry, the sisters of Lazarus, weeping before the Lord who, they thought, had come too late.

Baba gently asked the tearful women and sorrowful Hemchand to leave the room. As they left, He closed the door behind them. They do not know - no man knows - what happened in that room where there were only Swami and the 'dead' man.

But after a few minutes Baba opened the door and beckoned the waiting ones in. There, on the bed Radhakrishna was looking up at them and smiling. Amazingly the stiffness of death had vanished and his natural colour was returning. Baba went over, stroked the patient's head and said to him, "Talk to them, they're worried".

"Why worried?" asked Radhakrishna puzzled, "I'm all right. You are here".

Swami turned to the wife, "I have given your husband to you", He said. "Now get him a hot drink".

When she brought it Swami Himself fed it to Radhakrishna slowly with a spoon. For another half-an-hour He remained there, strengthening the man He had raised. Then He blessed the whole family, placing His hand on Mrs. Radhakrishna's head, and left the room.

When I spoke to Radhakrishna himself about the experience, I asked him if he had any memories at all of the time he was unconscious and to all appearing dead. He replied, "No, when I became conscious again I thought at first that it was the same day. Later they told me it had been three days I was unconscious, that I was dead and actually starting to stink. But Swami can do anything He wishes. He is God".

(‘Sai Baba: The Man of Miracles’, by Howard Murphet)

■ Resurrection of Walter Cowan, an American, on the Christmas day of 1971 is perhaps the most dramatic, unique and authentic event that reveals the Godlike power of Sai Baba. Elsie Cowan, the wife of Walter Cowan, records:

We have come back from India, my husband and I, brimful of the most astounding that could happen to anyone. It is so fantastic that many doubt it, because hardly any of us realise the great importance and the tremendous power of this great high God, who not only walks the Earth, but cares for all the planets from Earth into eternity. He gives us strength and power. He is compassionate, but most of all, he gives us the protection which is His grace. In time of need, He wraps His grace around us, like a very warm blanket, soft and lovely, to soothe us into a state of bliss. Without Him there would be no one to turn to; no father to ask; and even greater than that, at the very deepest feeling, He makes us strong. There are no tears, for the body goes back to the Earth. This is the story how our great Lord Sai Baba resurrected Walter, who died in Madras. Little did we know what was going to happen at that time, and when it did happen, what could I say but, "Where would he rather die than at the feet of this great, great Lord?" It is the blessing to know that the Great Lord takes care of us, places us where we should be placed, or else, as in this case, after several hours, He brings one back to life, as He did to Walter, my husband. There were many people present, but Jack Hislop was there throughout, almost the entire experience. Since he is the wonderful devotee, and is very close to our Lord, Sai Baba, I have asked him to tell the story as a third party.

Jack Hislop's Account of this event:

Dear Elsie Cowan; this is a letter in response to your request that I say what I know about your husband's experience in India, while you were there in December of 1971 and January of 1972. My name is Jack Hislop. I live in Mexico. My wife and I had visited Sathya Sai Baba a number of times in the past and we were there again in 1972. We returned from India on February 27th of this year after some four months with Sathya Sai Baba.

As I recall, Walter and you arrived in Madras on 23rd December 1971, and came to the building where Baba was holding a conference with some three thousand Presidents of His Seva Samithis. Baba at once came to you and gave Walter and yourself a warm and affectionate greeting. Walter was obviously not feeling well, and ushers had provided chair as soon as you arrived. Thus, you were quite visible amidst the great crowd of people, all of whom were sitting on the floor as is the custom in India.

On the morning of the 25th December, news quietly spread that an elderly American had a fatal attack of what was thought to be a heart trouble and had passed away. Upon hearing the rumor my wife and I at once went to your hotel. You confirmed the news, and told us how the attack had felled Walter in the hotel room. You had prayed to Sathya Sai Baba for help at this trying moment of your life, but with great self-control and recollection of human mortality, you had ended your prayer with 'Let God's will be done', you at once remembered that Mr. & Mrs. Ratanlal were staying in a room almost next door to yours and you called her. Mrs. Ratanlal came immediately.

With her help, you summoned a room boy and Walter was lifted from the floor to the bed. Mr. Ratanlal joined you in your prayer, for it was soon evident to you that Walter had indeed passed away from the body. Someone called for the ambulance to take Walter to the hospital, but it was your experience that Walter had died in your arms, soon after having been lifted from the floor to the bed, and you were so exhausted that you could not accompany the then lifeless body into the ambulance. These events had taken place in the early morning hours of 25 December. But at 7 A.M. you had recovered sufficient strength to go with Mrs. Ratanlal to Baba's place of residence to tell Him the news and ask for His advice and help. Baba said that He would visit the hospital around 10 a.m.

At 10 A.M. Mrs. Ratanlal accompanied you to the hospital, but you were told that Baba had already been there, and had left just before you arrived. Upon entering the hospital, you found Walter alive. That Walter was alive at 10 A.M. on 25th December is certain but how about his death? Was there any medical certification that he had died? After all, two ladies very much upset at a tragic event - could not perhaps, make the same tests for life, as would a medical doctor not personally involved in the emotional impact of the situation.

To clarify this point, at my request, Judge Damodar Rao of Madras interviewed the doctor who had attended Walter when he arrived at the hospital. This attending physician is well known to Judge Damodar Rao personally and the doctor told Judge Rao that Walter was indeed dead when he had examined Walter shortly after the ambulance had delivered him to the hospital.

The doctor said that there was no sign of life; that he pronounced "Walter as dead; that Walter's ear and nose were stuffed with cotton, that Walter was covered with a sheet and sent into an empty room.

The doctor then left the hospital on some professional duty, and had missed seeing Baba when He was at the hospital. The doctor arrived back at the hospital after Baba had left. When the doctor returned to the hospital, Walter was alive. The doctor found himself unable to explain the situation. It seemed worthwhile to me to make an investigation for medical verification on Walter's death, because such verification might be a factor of interest to people who had never seen Sathya Sai Baba, and who might have a very limited knowledge of Him. But, medical testimony is not a factor of any importance to devotees of Baba. To His devotees, what he said about Mr. Cowan was the truth of the matter.

I saw Baba at His place of residence after He had returned from hospital. He told me and others within hearing that Walter Cowan had died and the hospital had stuffed his ears and nose with cotton, and covered him with a sheet, and put the body in the closed room. Baba said that He had brought Walter back to life. I did not enquire of Baba as to how He had brought Walter back to life or reasons neither for doing so nor, to the best of my knowledge, did anyone else. This is a mystery that Baba has not as yet chosen to explain.

There was a later occurrence of great interest to me. A day later, on 26th December, Appa and I accompanied Baba to the home of a devotee. From there, He went to a meeting of the lady members of Nagara Sai Samithi where Baba was to give award and speak. Appa and I were sitting on the platform just a few feet away from Baba and were able to observe Him closely. He made the award and gave a spiritual discourse, all without any break or any moment of hesitation. From the meeting, we were to go to the home of another devotee for lunch.

As soon as we got in the car, Baba turned to us and said, "While I was talking in the meeting, Mrs. Cowan called Me. I went to the hospital at once and did what was necessary. Mr. Cowan's health had taken a turn for the worse". So even while busy on the speaker's platform, Baba had gone to the hospital and had done what was necessary. But, to the eyes of Shri Appa and myself, Baba had continued in action and speech on the platform for the whole time there, without any break or hesitation whatsoever. How does one explain this mystery? When we arrived at the devotees' house for lunch, Baba turned to us and said, "You will not be able to join me for lunch. Take this Vibhutti to the hospital and give Mr. Cowan some in the mouth and rub the rest on the forehead and the chest. If you walk to the corner over there you will find Mrs. Hislop there in a taxi. She will take you to the hospital".

Now the fact was that my wife had been following Baba in a taxi. However, she had taken great pains to stay out of sight, but her efforts were to no avail. As usual Baba knew everything. When we reached the hospital with the Vibhutti, Mrs. Cowan said, "Walter took a very bad turn just a little while ago. I thought he was dead, and I was terrified. I at once called Baba in a loud tone of voice. Now, Walter seems a little improved. When I called Baba I felt His presence at once, by saying this Elsie, you independently corroborated Baba's statement in the car, to Shri Appa and myself.

A week or so later, I was speaking with Baba at Prashanthi Nilayam. Walter and you were still in Madras and Walter was in the hospital. Baba said, "Today I received a telegram from Mrs. Cowan. Mr. Cowan was in a very serious condition again. I answered the telegram. "Mr. Cowan will be out of the hospital soon, and will come to Bangalore. It is my Sankalpa, My Will..." Of course, Elsie there was no physical telegram. The telegram was your prayer. In the same conversation, Baba said Mr. Cowan died three times. I had to bring him back three times. Walter and you did indeed come to Bangalore, and you were waiting at the West End Hotel when my wife and I returned from Prashanthi Nilayam. To our eyes, Walter appeared to be extraordinarily well. The next morning when we went out

to visit Baba at Whitefield I reported Walter's condition to Him. He said, "Tell nobody that you will ride into Bangalore with Me in the afternoon, in the late afternoon and I will visit Mr. Cowan. Send your wife ahead in a taxi.

Baba did visit Mr. Cowan and visited him a second time few days later. Then Baba told you that Mr. Cowan was strong enough to make the fifteen-mile drive to Whitefield each morning, and that he was to return to the hotel at noon each day and rest during the afternoon. Dr. Gyaneshwaran, with whom I and my wife had been acquainted for several years, was your attending physician in Bangalore. He counted himself extremely fortunate because he was in the room when Baba arrived. Walter and you graciously allowed him to bring his family also inside the room in order to have Baba's Darshan. Then, some time later, by virtue of being Walter's physician, Gyaneshwaran was also to be inside Baba's house at Whitefield when Baba performed a very beautiful and very significant Vedic wedding ceremony for Walter and yourself.

Dr. Gyaneshwaran had Walter's medical history, with its specific laboratory tests, showing severe diabetes of long standing and various other diseased conditions. After assuming his responsibility as your Bangalore physician, and a standard medical man, rechecked the finding of Walter's American doctors with his own laboratory tests. Not only were the diabetic symptoms completely absent but the taste of the other diseases were similarly negative. He could scarcely believe the results of the laboratory tests. He explained, "Only the Divine Baba - only God Himself could do this".

The extraordinary fact seems to be that the total organism that was Mr. Walter Cowan, died, the only entity that returned to life was Walter himself. Walter's various diseases died with him, but the diseases were not reborn - only Walter was reborn. A most marvelous inscrutable event was it not? All of the foregoing does not, of course, imply that Walter's physical body has become immortal. Of course, he has had some bad days. At times, he has become over tired, and at another time, has suffered perhaps because of an injudicious meal. After all, it is not a teenaged body; it is an aged body, but nevertheless, a great miracle really happened.

Walter is alive again, free of disease and filled with enthusiasm to tell people of the Divine presence of Sri Sathya Sai Baba...

Thus, Walter had a most extraordinary experience in December, 1971 and January, 1972. Both of you know directly the Divine Grace of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Sd: John Hislop

WALTER COWAN'S ACCOUNT OF HIS RESURRECTION

While in Connemara Hotel in Madras, I was taken very sick with pneumonia two days after I arrived and was in bed. As I gasped for breath, suddenly the body's struggle was over and I died. I found myself very calm, in a state of wonderful bliss and the Lord, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, was by my side. Even though my body lay on the bed, dead. My mind kept working throughout until Baba brought me back. There was no anxiety or fear, but a tremendous sense of well being, for I had lost all fear of death.

Baba took me to very large hall where there were hundreds of people milling around. It was the hall where all the records of my lives were kept. Baba and I stood before the court of justice. The one in charge knew Baba very well and he asked for the records of all my lives. He was very nice and kind, and I had the feeling that whatever was decided would be the best for my soul.

The records were brought into the hall - armloads of scrolls - and all of them seemed to be in different languages. As they were read, Baba interpreted them. In the beginning they told me of countries that have not existed for thousands of years and I could not recall them. When they reached King David, the reading of my life became more exciting. I could hardly believe how great I apparently was in each life that followed. As they continued reading my lives, it seemed that what really counted was my motives and character, as I stood for outstanding peace and spirituality. I did not remember all the names, but I am included in almost all the history books of the world from the beginning of time. As I incarnated in different countries, I carried out my mission - which was peace and spirituality.

After about two hours, they finished reading the scrolls, and the Lord, Sai Baba said that I had not completed the work that I was born to do, and he asked the judge that I be turned over to Him to complete my mission of spreading the truth and He requested that my soul be returned to my body under Baba's grace. The judge said, "So be it". The case was dismissed and I left with Baba to return to my body. I hesitated to leave this wonderful bliss but I knew it was best to complete my mission so that I could merge with the Lord, Sai Baba.

I related the story to Elsie at once, and she recorded it. I also talked it over with Baba and he said it was not my imagination - it was a true experience. My life goes on now under the grace of Sai Baba whom I adore and to whom I owe my life.

Sd: Walter R. Cowan

(‘Sai Baba, the Rose Fire of Heaven’ by Krishna Nandan Sinha)

■ In the early days Swami used to go to Madras quite often, there was a family in Madras at whose house Swami usually stayed. He also drove His own car, although now He does not. Now He always has a driver, who takes Him everywhere, in a car, which somebody has put there for His use.

But before He had His present car, Swami had an old Chevrolet Station Wagon.

He used to drive one of the cars Himself. When He would go to Madras to visit His devotees there, other devotees would gather along the road at various places to see Swami drive by. The car would be coming along at a very fast clip and sitting behind the wheel was Swami with His arms folded, with the car going along - about two inches of the road - not even touching the road.

One time He went to Madras and arrived unexpectedly at the house of His hostess. You know when an Avatar comes to visit your house, I am sure you would have something with which to greet Him. Some flowers or a tray of food or some way of welcoming the great man to your house. That was the case with this hostess too.

Swami came to the door and knocked. The hostess answered, saw Swami standing there, and exclaimed, "Oh, Swami, Swami, I'm so happy to see you. But Swami you did not tell me you were coming, and I don't have anything to welcome you with. I don't have flowers or fruit. I don't have anything". The poor lady was quite distraught. So Swami said, "Don't worry, don't worry". Then he turned around and beckoned at the car.

Out of the car came two angels with wings, carrying a big silver tray, loaded with fruit and flowers and everything the hostess would need to welcome Swami. The angels brought this tray up to the house and gave it to the hostess. Then Swami turned to the angels and waved them back to the car. They floated back to the car folded their wings, got in the car, and disappeared.

(‘Seeking Divinity’, by Dr. John S. Hislop)

Well, that much for Baba's Miracles. I would say that this is only a tip of an iceberg. If the entire sky would turn into the paper and all the water of all the oceans of the world became ink, and the whole Earth appeared as a fountain pen, still I would not be able to write and complete all the miracles, performed by Bhagawan Baba so far.

In the next chapter, the author will deal with BABA'S CRITICS.

BABA'S CRITICS.

There have been no Avatars who have not been criticised, or have no enemies to condemn them and malign them. Baba is no exception.

■ One of such Baba's critic was Shri P.C. Sorcar, a great magician, who challenged Baba to come out in the open but Baba completely ignored him. Then appeared an article in the monthly magazine 'Gentleman', in the June 1983, published in Bombay. In that article Shri P.C. Sorcar vented a lot of venom on Baba, to accuse Him and malign Him. In course of time, the accusations disappeared in the air.

■ Next came Black Magicians, from America. Some of Baba's women devotees, living abroad, were caught up in the fold of a few Black Magicians, who used their acquired powers, to play with the sanctity of those women. The women devotees approached Baba, to save them from their clutches. Swami by exercising His Divine Will took away the powers of such Black Magicians, and the women were set free.

The Black Magicians, sensing the above and with a vengeance, published a book entitled 'Man of the Air'. In that book a lot of malice and rotten mud was thrown on Baba and even filthy sexual accusations were made against Him. The author saw that book, on sale in the book stall at Bombay Airport, but he would not look at it or even touch it with a pair of tongs. The matter was brought to the notice of Baba, by the Trust members, and Baba's reply was, "Even these people will come to My Lotus Feet, during the course of time".

■ Then, in some of leading Newspapers, appeared a very exciting news, that there is a boy, who is able to materialise things like Baba and can also produce Vibhutti at his will. There was another news, a yogi who is able to walk on water, also challenging Baba to face him? Shri J. S. Hislop happened to be with Baba at that time and he put a question to Baba on these matters. The author gives hereunder the resume of the questions and answers which has been taken from the book 'Conversation with Bhagawan Sathya Sri Baba', by J.S. Hislop :

Hislop: I gave Swami a ring created by a Yogi. I did not want to wear it and I did not know what to do with it. That is, I sent it up to Swami by a messenger with a note about it.

Swami: That was another attempt aimed at you by other interests. You are known as a devotee of Baba, and it was an attempt to interest you elsewhere. Like that western city matter. You should reject such attempts.

Hislop: But that man from there said Swami stayed at his house.

Swami: Not true. That area is strongly communist. At one time Baba did bring about a genuine evidence of His Sankalpa there, but ego and money making arose, so Baba stopped things. Again He allowed it, and now again He has stopped it. Those people, in fear of loss of reputation, are now doing things by tricks.

Hislop: The man seemed a very nice fellow.

Swami: Not so. There is always good and bad in dualistic phenomena. When there is an Avatar, there must always be bad. Rama's foster mother was His enemy. Krishna's uncle was His enemy even before He was born. Shirdi Baba was much abused. Not long ago, there was a man who challenged Swami to some tests. Stories appeared over broad area, even in other countries. This man had some foreign people in his camp. Some of Swami's devotees urged him to reply; But reply would have been shameful. This Yogi was eating nails and glass and so on. He created a special tank for a test of water walking. Why a special tank? Something crooked. He sold tickets to spectators for up to 100 rupees and more per ticket. On the appointed day he stepped on the water and sank in the water. The police had to put him in a cell to protect him from abuse, and all the money was refunded. Now, people said, what a fool he had been to challenge Swami. His disaster was the result of the foolish challenge. Later the man wrote to Swami disclaiming any serious intent to challenge, and confessed that he had used Swami's name just to increase ticket sale. The man is gone and now nothing is heard of him.

Hislop: But Swami, why would the man be so foolish as to try to walk on water without practice beforehand?

Swami: The man was walking on water. But ego and greed arose, and that finished it. Thought, word, and deed must be the same.

■ Mr. Erlender Haraldsson, Ph.D, writes in his book 'Miracles are My Visiting Cards' that Baba was challenged by Sadhus (Hindu holy man) from Northern India. He writes, "I remember when big Sadhus from Kashmir came to Puttaparthi. He was a Tantric - that is he was himself able to perform the miracles. As soon as he arrived at Puttaparthi, he challenged Swami saying, "I can do better things than you can". He demonstrated his abilities. For example, he used to take an empty pot, pour from it, and out would come water, and he says it is from the Ganga. And he used to open his hand and reveal Kumkum. He was a well-built large man with a big beard. He was a good musician too, had a big steel rod, and called Gazale in Hindi that is used as a musical instrument. He played on the Gazale, attracting most of the people.

At that time there was with me in Puttaparthi an old Poojari Seshagiri. I did not feel bold enough to talk to the Tantric by myself, but the Poojari came with me and we asked the man: "What do you mean by doing all these things?" He said, "I am challenging Swamiji to stand before me instead the other way around". And he told us to tell this to Swamiji. Swamiji replied by saying "Wait for three days and then we will see to it". Then, one day, when Bhajan was going on, the man suddenly got up and just fell at Baba's Feet. He started crying - that big Tantric Sadhus. Everybody had been scared that he was going to harm Swamiji or do something. We never thought that he was going to surrender himself. We expected that he might be playing some trick to harm Swami. Instead he started crying like a child, Swamiji started laughing.

The Tantric said, (I remember his words even now) "I am a fool. I never realised that you were Narayana". Narayana is the same deity as Rama. He was from Badrinath, where the population is predominately Vaishnavite.

From that time onwards he became like a docile cat. He was there for more than seven days. He started preaching that Swamiji is God. He told us "You are all very lucky. I have been to so many hills and places or pilgrimage and done all these Pujas and Tapas (Religious austerities) and it is only now that I am able to see the real God". He then took his leave and departed, saying he would not come back.

■ Then came the episode of Dr. H. Narasimhaiah, the then Chancellor of the Bangalore University. He constituted a 12 member committee to investigate rationally and scientifically the miracles and other verifiable superstitions. The committee was constituted on 27th of April, 1976.

On behalf of the committee, Dr. Narasimhaiah wrote a polite letter to Sai Baba in which he said that, "I would be very thankful if you can kindly give me and another members of the committee an opportunity to meet you and discuss with you all these issues (Miracles and superstitions) and also to conduct the investigation of these phenomena according to the well-established methods of science under controlled conditions". Sai Baba did not reply to this letter.

In May, 1977, the committee members went to Brindavan, Whitefield with a hope that Baba would meet them, but Baba would not accede to their request. This episode started off a widely publicised controversy that raged in the newspapers for several months. Even the respected daily Times of India printed an editorial on the controversy on 25th July, 1976, entitled 'No Miracles'.

Baba is said to have responded curtly, when someone mentioned this affair to him, by reciting an old Kannada proverb: 'Nothing happens to the sky if a dog barks'.

(Taken from the book 'Miracles are My Visiting Cards' by Erlender Haraldsson)

However Baba had clarified most of the issues raised by Mr. Narasimhaiah and other critics. Narasimhaiah asked why Baba does not materialise pumpkins and cucumber or a watch with a distinct mark to prove that it is his creation and not a transfer of somebody's else's manufacture? Swami replies, "Pumpkins and cucumbers can be materialised as

easily as rings or objects. But these are perishable objects and the whole point of materialization, as I have already explained, lies in their permanence. That is why rings or watches become more serviceable as talismans or means of contact and communications, between the Avatar and his devotees.

“The point they are trying to make is that big objects like pumpkins cannot be transferred while small one like rings can be but as I repeatedly said, I do not transfer things by a sleight of hand. I create them to be talismans”.

The following question and answer session is between Shri. R.K.Karanjia and Swamiji, when Baba granted interview to Karanjia, this full interview will follow after this. (The author has only taken the question raised by Dr. Narasimhiah, and Baba’s reply)

Baba : “Now, coming to the question about a ring or a watch with distinct mark to prove that it is my own creation, would you like Me to materialise something for you?”

Karanjia replies, “Yes Swamiji, I certainly would”.

Baba waved His hand in the air to produce a silver ring bearing the inscription ‘Om’ in the centre with Sai Ram Marks on the sides and held Karanjia’s right hand to gently put it on the third finger. It was an exact fit and it was precisely what Karanjia wanted from Baba.

The above materialization proves that Baba does and can produce even a watch with His distinct mark. The author would like to stress one important point here: Is it necessary for Baba to prove each and everything to anyone and everyone? He may only reveal the Truth about His own life to a few of His chosen devotees, because what He is proving to them is pure and Divine. For instance, when a mother is feeding her child through her breast, there is a genuine flow of milk, which only she knows, but there might be many skeptics who would not believe the same, without a practical demonstration. Will the mother come forward for such scrutiny? She, out of her own coyness and chastity will not come forward merely for the sake of demonstrating the truth to people, specially to the skeptics, who may be having some malice in their mind while pretending that they are seeking the truth.

■ Now, lastly, the author comes to the final critic of Baba, Shri R. K. Karanjia of Blitz, Bombay. He used to write articles condemning Baba’s miracles and calling Baba a hoax. One of his good friends once told him, “Karanjia, you are editing a magazine of repute, and isn’t it your responsibility to see that what is published in the magazine is true and honest. Why don’t you go to Baba, meet him personally, examine Him, experience Him and then publish the facts in your magazine”. This prompted Karanjia, to go to Swami, and Swami immediately called him for an interview. In the interview room, before Karanjia could pose any question to Swami; instant came the reply.

This truth convinced Karanjia about Swami’s Divinity.

The following extracts are taken from the book ‘The Essential Sai’ by the Sainet Editor Committee, Vancouver, Canada.

The extended interview given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba to the chief editor Shri R.K.Karanjia, of Blitz in September of 1976, is a most extraordinary document. The record of an interview between a reporter and the Lord incarnate cannot but absorb us. Baba explains very carefully and openly to Shri. Karanjia the situation facing humanity, the purpose of His mission, and His preferred *modus operandi* as Avatar of the age. He says that all the sacred principles are in danger of wholesale destruction and that the Avatar has come to prevent thermonuclear conflagration. He will raise human consciousness above anger, hatred, violence and war, He says, “Save the world from disaster”. He acknowledges that He has come invested with the totality of cosmic power to achieve His mission.

Speaking as the Lord incarnate, Sai Baba tells the interviewer that He comes from age to age, whenever strife and discord threaten to overwhelm the world (a declaration also made in the Milestone speech). He tells us that He intends to encourage the rise of universal love by teaching the primary lesson that all people are one. He acknowledges that He has not come to disturb the various faiths but to show them their common basis in Sanathana Dharma, or the ancient wisdom. “Let the different faiths exist, let them flourish,” He says, “So far they do not extinguish the flame of unity”.

He encourages all to live a desireless life, by which means the Earth will provide plenty for the sustenance of the human family. Life without desire would result in the realisation of Atma, He advises. He tells the interviewer that He gives people miraculous talismans so that He can know when harm threatens them and He may protect them. He says that His power to create and destroy is intrinsic to Him as an Avatar and requires no spiritual practices to acquire. They are not the result of magic or Siddhis, but are natural to God. To allow the interviewer to see a manifestation first-hand, Baba materialises a silver ring for him, which fits his hand perfectly.

In a majestic declaration, He reveals, “I am everything, everywhere, Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent”. The godliness present in us as a spark is present in Him as the full flame. He discusses the options open to the Avatar to help mankind and rejects any instant solution such an immediate, blanket approach, which He is capable of taking, would leave humanity with its evil tendencies intact. Men would soon be at each other’s throat again. As

well, the natural laws of the universe would be suspended by His intervention and the whole drama of creation would collapse.

He calls His a long-term solution whereby the Avatar would lead humanity to a higher level of consciousness from which it could transcend the cycle of cause and effect and command and control the natural forces. He calls upon humanity to reject a high standard of living in favour of a high level of living, He advises : “Conquer greed for pleasure and luxury instead of being a slave to these false materialistic values”. He asserts that only the spiritual path can save the world from the wrongs of a materialistic order. He declares it is His purpose “to build one humanity without any religion, caste or other barriers in a Universal empire of love which would enable my devotees to feel the whole world as their family”.

THE BLITZ INTERVIEW, SEPTEMBER, 1976

R. K. Karanjia: At the outset, Swamiji, we would like to know something about triple incarnation - past, present and future...that is from Shirdi Sai Baba to Sathya Sai Baba and the Prema Sai Baba to come, according to your prophecy?

Baba: First of all, you must grasp the complete oneness of the three incarnations of contemporary times with those of the past like Rama and Krishna. This is a difficult task when people cannot understand the present, how can they comprehend the past? Every incarnation is full and complete in relation to the time, environments and the task. There is no distinction between the various appearances of God as Rama, Krishna or Sai.

Rama came to feed the roots of truth and righteousness, Krishna followed to foster the plant of peace and love. Now these sacred principles are in danger of wholesale destruction by reason of human weakness under the onslaught of human evil forces. They are overcoming the good, the spiritual and the divine in man. That is why the present Avatar has come invested with the totality of cosmic power to save Dharma (righteousness) from anti-Dharma.

Q. By the present Avatar you mean Sai Baba?

Baba : Yes, I incarnate from age to age, time to time, to save Dharma. Whenever strife, discord and disharmony overwhelm the world, God incarnates in human form to show the mankind the way of love, harmony and peace.

Q. That is understandable. But skeptics wonder why God assumes human form.

Baba: Because that is the only way to incarnate the God within man. He takes the human form and behaves in a human way so that humanity can feel kinship with divinity. At the same time He rises to godly heights so that mankind also can aspire to reach God. The realisation of the indwelling God as the motivator of the life is the task for which Avatars come in human form.

Previous Avatars like Rama and Krishna had to destroy a few individuals who could be identified as enemies of the godly way of life and thus restore the Dharmic path. Today, however, wickedness has tainted so many that humanity itself stands under the threat of destruction. Therefore, in My present Avatar, I have come armed with the fullness of the power of formless God to correct mankind, raise human consciousness and put people back on the right path of truth, righteousness, peace and love to divinity.

Q. Why had this task to be divided into three separate incarnations of the Shirdi, Sathya and Prema Babas?

Baba: They are not separate, I have already mentioned that complete oneness of the three is the final objective of the mission. I will give you an example. Take a kilo of Gur (A sweet substance). The whole of it tastes sweet. Next break it into small pieces. Each of them is sweet. Finally break them into small grains, you find the same sweetness in them. So the difference is of the quantity and not quality. It is the same with Avatars. Their task and power requisite to them differ according to the time, the situation and the environment, but they belong to, and derive from, one and the same Dharma Swarupa or Divine body.

Let us take the example of a fruit. It begins with a seed which grows into the tree and from it comes the fruit. Work can be compared to the seed, worship to the tree and wisdom to the fruit.

The previous Avatar, Shirdi Sai Baba laid the base for secular integration and gave mankind the message (that) duty is work. The mission of the present Avatar is to make everybody realise that the same God or Divinity resides in everyone. People should respect, love and help each other irrespective of colour or creed. Thus all work can become a way of worship. Finally Prema Sai, the third Avatar, will promote the evangel news that not only the God resides in everybody, but everybody is God. That will be the final wisdom which will enable every man and woman to go to God. The three Avatars carry the triple message of work, worship and wisdom.

Q. So that is the holy mission and the divine purpose of the triple incarnation?

Baba: To unite all mankind into one caste or family in the establishment of unity - that is Atmic realisation - in every man or woman which is the basis on which the cosmic design rests. Once this is realised, the common Divine heritage that binds man to God will become apparent and love shall prevail as the guiding light of the universe.

In the first place, man has to develop into mankind in the fullness of its integrated potential. At present mankind as such is absent in the world. There is no synthesis between thought, word and deed. Man today thinks one thing, says something different, and acts quite the contrary. So what we have in the individual man, confused, confounded and bombarded with contradictory thoughts. What we do not see in mankind is that he is not motivated by good thoughts, good words and good deeds. We have to make him realise God within him to develop synthesis, correlating thought, word and deed.

Once this primary lesson is taught into family, the school, the college, the society, the cities, the states, the nations of the world, then man will become conscious of the fact that all mankind belongs to one family. As Christ preached, all are one, be alike to everyone. The vital issue is the oneness: one caste, one class, one creed of humanity: and this can be achieved only by the surrender of oneself or ego to pure, selfless, universal love and devotion. Love is the basis, the common denominator, the devotion and the Divine spark, the cementing, unifying, integrating factor between man and man, and man and God.

Let Me give you an illustration. (Baba spreads His handkerchief on the ground between us). Here is a piece of cloth. As you see, it is all made of threads. Pull out the threads separately and the cloth becomes weak. Put them together and it is firm and strong. It is the same with mankind. Love binds it like a million, billion threads in cloth and devotion reunites it with God. I, therefore embody love and use it as My instrument to generate man and create the brotherhood of mankind with the help of the latter's devotion. I always say: Start the day with love. Fill the day with love. End the day with love. This is the quickest way, the surest path to God.

Life is love, enjoy it

Life is a challenge, meet it

Life is a song, sing it

Life is a dream, realise it

Life is a game, play it.

Q. Did Shirdi Baba actually claim that he would be born eight years after his death in 1918?

Baba: Yes, he did. This has been recorded by Kaka Dikshit as well as the number of other devotees who were with Shirdi Baba.

Q. What makes you so sure that you are Shirdi Baba incarnate?

Baba: The knowledge of My own authentic experience, of course. Since no one who knew Shirdi Baba is alive today, there is no evidence except My own knowledge and experience. The very fact that I announced that, "I am Shirdi Baba 40 years ago, when I was only 10 and when nobody in this part of the South had known or even heard of Shirdi Baba proves this fact".

Q. The existing situation driven by evil forces to distraction as you have correctly analyzed it, appears to suggest the inevitability of another Mahabharata (An epic relating to the battle of Kurukshetra) war. Does this mean that the salvation for which you are working can be consummated only after a destructive war?

Baba: The evil must and shall be removed before such a catastrophe takes place. There will be minor war and skirmishes, of course: these cannot be helped in the existing state of affairs. The Mahabharata war was a different issue altogether. Lord Krishna decreed it and, in fact, led Arjuna to the battlefield in order to rid the world of evil man and ungodly forces.

Today, as I told you, the evil is so widespread that humanity itself would be destroyed in a nuclear holocaust in the event of the world war. It is to prevent such a catastrophe that this Avatar has come to raise human consciousness above the existing syndrome of anger, hate, violence and war and save the world from disaster. This can be achieved only by the reestablishment of brotherhood of the mankind through the Vedas, the Shastras and all religions with their evangel of Dharma to liberate the human race from the chains of Karma (the cycle of birth and death). I always say : let the different faiths exist, let them flourish, let the glory of God be sung in all the languages in a variety of tunes. That should be the ideal. Respect the differences between the faiths and recognise them as valid so far as they do not extinguish the flame of unity.

Q. From what Baba has said, it seems that there is not much difference or dichotomy between God and man. Am I right?

Baba: Quite right, God is man and man is God. All of us have something of God, the Divine spark, within us. All men are Divine like Myself, but with the spirit embodied in human flesh and bone. The only difference is that they are unaware of this Godhood. They have come into this Karmic prison through the mistakes of many lives. I have taken this mortal form out of My own free Will. They are bound to the body, while I am free of this bondage. The main difference is that they are shoved hither and thither by desire but I have no desire except the supreme one to make them desireless.

Take paddy or rice by way of an illustration. Every grain of rice is enclosed in a husk. You have to remove the husk to get the grain of rice. Now husk and rice, both come from the same seed. Rice is equivalent to God in man, while the husk can be compared to desire which reduces God to man. Therefore, My formula is:

LIFE + DESIRE = MAN

LIFE - DESIRE = GOD

Q. In what way can life without desire make Gods of men?

Baba: Life without desire means the realisation of the pure, genuine self that is Atma. Bound to desire, the self degenerates into selfishness. Atma turns into ego. The way of self-realisation is to cleanse the self of this ego or selfishness, then you reach a state of consciousness beyond the mind and the intellect, revealing the true self that is God. The mind is like a cloth that covers and stifles consciousness, the threads of which are desires. If we give up the desires, the threads fall and the cloth disappears, revealing our true nature. That is what the Vedanta (Epic of ancient wisdom and knowledge) means when it enjoins that one must get rid of the ego to realise oneself.

Q. You mean that the mind of man as such creates the block between man and God?

Baba: Yes, one must make a distinction between the mind that is the ego, and the real self that is consciousness. The latter helps us to cross the frontiers of the ego-mind and becomes aware of oneself as the witness of truth. Normally the scientists of the mind look outside to what can be perceived by the senses existing in the world of the mind to ask : what is this? The scientists of consciousness, on the other hand, always look inside to that which is beyond the senses or the grasp of the mind to ask: What is that?

One has, therefore, to rise beyond the mind to consciousness to achieve self-realisation. To gain the infinite, universal Atma, the embodied self must break out of the puny, finite little prison of individuality. Desires belong to the senses, the brain, the mind; once you become free of it, you realise the self, Atma, consciousness, enlightenment, and become one with the cosmic power. Self-realisation is God realisation. Thus man reaches God.

Q. What is the significance of Vibhutti (Holy ash) and the trinkets that You materialise and give to people? Is there any need for a Godman to demonstrate such miracles which any magicians can conjure?

Baba: So far as I am concerned this is evidence of My Divinity, it is not by any means an exhibition of Divinity. All performances of magic, as you know are done for the sake of income. These are the tricks of the magicians' trade. They constitute a kind of legalized cheating, the transfer of an object from one place to another by the trick of the hand which goes unnoticed. They involve no Siddhi (occult power) or miraculous power.

What I do is quite a different act of creation. It is neither magic, nor it is Siddhi power either. For one thing, I seek no return. For another, I do not cheat people by transferring objects, but I create them. Again, I do so not because of any need or desire or exhibition of My power. For Me this is a kind of calling card to convince people of My love for them and secure their devotion in return. Since love is formless, I do materialization as evidence of My love. It is merely a symbol.

Q. Still I do not understand why you should materialise rings, bracelets, watches and those kind of trinkets.

Baba: Most people desire talismans as symbolic of My protection. So I provide them, when they are in trouble they feel the grip of the ring, bracelet or watch to remember Me and call Me to their rescue so that I can help them. On the other hand, if I give them something they cannot wear, they are likely to store it and forget about it.

The main thing is that this trinkets or talismans, by whatever name you call them, give people a sense of security and protection they need in times of troubles or crisis and create a symbolic link covering the long distances between them and Myself. When the devotees need Me, these objects flash a message as if by wireless and I instantly come to their rescue.

Q. I am sorry to be persistent, Swamiji but isn't the gift of an Omega or HMT Watch an act of cheating the company of breach of its patent?

Baba: I assure you there is no such thing. It would be cheating the company or breaching the patent if it were a case of transfer of the watch from one place to another. But I do not transfer; I totally create. Whatever I will, instantly materialises. I know of no company that has complained about any breach of patent.

Q. What about Vibhutti materialised by you? We would like to know its relevance because your critics are trying to discredit you by sending around magicians who produced exact replicas of Vibhutti.

Baba: What I materialise is a manifestation of Divinity with potent significance as well as symbolism. It is symbolic of the cosmic, immortal and infinite nature of all forms of God, Atma or the spirit. That is, what is left when everything worldly, transient and changeable has burnt away.

I have spoken to you of the imperative of the desireless life. After Siva had burnt the God of Desire, Kama, into a heap of ashes, he adorned himself with the ash to shine as the conqueror of desire. When Kama was destroyed,

Prema reigned as the Goddess of Love. Such is the significance of ash. In the first place, it is symbolic of the life-death cycle in which everything ultimately reduces itself to ash. "For dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou returnest". Ash or dust is the final condition of things. It cannot undergo any further changes. In the spiritual context, it constitutes a warning to the receiver to give up desire, to burn all passions, attachments and temptations, and makes one pure in thought, word and deed.

It is in order to press home this lesson that I materialise ash for those who come to Me with Love and Devotion. Like the other materialisations it also acts as the talisman, healing the sick and giving protection to those who need it. It is the symbol of divinity, quite different from the magician's trickery mentioned by you.

Q. You are believed to perform miraculous cures to the extent of resurrecting the dead. There are cases where you reportedly saved people from drowning and other accidents in distant places. Medical experts have attested to remote controlled surgical operations performed by you. How do you manage these?

Baba: By My own Sankalpa - that is, Divine Will and Power. As an Avatar, this power is intrinsic, inherent, total and natural to My Will and decision. I need no Mantra (Mystical formula), no Sadhana (Spiritual practice), No Tantra (Sacred writings) and no Yantra (mystical powers) to perform the so-called miracles which are natural to my state. My powers are simply the expression or assertions of reality of goodness which merges Me with everything, everywhere, at all times and places. The miracles belong to the boundless power of God.

Now coming to the main points of your question, this healing phenomenon has a dual aspect. I can cure, save, and even resurrect people provided they are in a spiritually receptive condition. It is like a positive and negative current of electricity. My capacity to heal can be compared to the positive current; your devotion to Me is like the negative current. Once the two come together, the devotion provides what is called the miracle of healing.

It is man's mind that is really responsible for his illness or health. He himself is the cause or motivator or either. So when it comes to healing or curing, the necessary faith has to be created within his mind for the purpose. All I do is to invoke him with the confidence, will power to cure himself. It is My abounding Love reciprocated by the intensity of the devotee's faith in Me that produce the desired result.

Q. So they are not Siddhic power or magical tricks, as your critics suggest?

Baba: They are neither magical tricks nor Siddhic (occult) powers, which can come to everybody with the appropriate discipline and Yoga exercises, but My powers to protect, heal and save people and materialise objects originate in God and can be used only by an Avatar. They are in no way designed, disciplined or developed, but flow from cosmic power.

Q. Some say that You command invisible spirits which can transfer objects from one place to another on your orders?

Baba: There is no need for Me to command invisible spirits since My own Divine Will materialises the objects. I am everything, Omniscient, Omnipotent, and Omnipresent; and so whatever I will, instantly happens. Like the qualities of truth, love and peace, these are things that generate the Atmic (Godly) or cosmic forces behind the Universe.

Q. Your followers at home as well as abroad claim positive evidence of the presence of Baba in their innermost hearts. Some have written of you as their in-dwelling God. What is the explanation of this phenomenon?

Baba: This is the grace begotten of My love for them reciprocated by their devotion. After all, as I repeatedly say, we all belong to same Divine principle. The Godliness which is present in everybody in the form of a little spark is present in Me as the full flame, and it is My mission to develop every spark of God in everyone to the fullness of the Divine flame.

The first imperative of this development is that the receiver of the grace also provides from his side or her side the devotion necessary to consummation. Those who carry the presence of Baba in their hearts like indwelling God belong to these kinds of devotees. They come to Me, see Me and hear Me, experience My love for them and receive it with devotion. Thus they become part of Me and My divinity.

To the doubting and confused ones, I give this illustration. Those who want to secure pearls from the sea have to dive deep to fetch them. It does not help them to dabble amongst the shallow waves near the shore and say that the sea has no pearls and all stories about them are false. Likewise, if a person wants to secure the love and grace of this Avatar, he must dive deep and get submerged in Sai Baba. Then only, he will become one with Me and carry Me in his innermost heart.

Q. The critics of Swamiji ask why Sai Baba does not help people in distress by bringing rains in the times of drought or creating food where there is famine by means of His Sankalpa Shakti (Divine power, Universal energy). Cannot an Avatar help humanity to control the natural forces and prevent calamities like earthquakes, floods, droughts, famine and epidemics?

Baba: This is precisely what I am doing by incarnating the indwelling God in man to overcome such calamities. There are two ways in which an Avatar can help people: an instant solution as against a long-term one.

Any instant solution would go against the fundamental quality of nature itself as well against the Karmic law of cause and effect. Most people live in the material world of their desires and egos, which is governed by this law. They reap the fruits of their actions. This brings about their evolution or devolution. If the Avatar intervenes to instantly solve their problems, it would stop all actions, development, even evolution. This solution can be ruled out because it totally negates the natural laws.

The other and more effective alternative presents a long-term solution whereby the Avatar leads the people themselves to a higher level of consciousness to enable them to understand the truth of spiritual laws so that they may turn towards righteousness and steadfastly work for better conditions. This will relate them back to nature and the Karmic law of causation. This would then transcend the cycle of cause and effect in which today they are involved as victims and thereby command and control the natural forces to be able to avert the calamities you mention.

Q. You mean that you are presently raising the consciousness of mankind to a God-like condition to enable them to command their own destiny?

Baba: Exactly. They would become shareholders of My Sankalpa Shakti (Divine power, Universal energy). I have to work through them, rouse the in-dwelling God in them and evolve them to a higher reality in order to enable them to master the natural laws and forces. If I cure everything instantly, leaving the people at their present level of consciousness, they would soon mess up things and be at one another's throat again with the result that the same chaotic situation would develop in the world.

Suffering and misery are the inescapable acts of the cosmic drama. God does not decree these calamities but man invited them by way of retribution for his own evil deeds. This is corrective punishment which induces mankind to give up the wrong path and return to the right path so that he may experience the God-like condition of Sat-Chit-Ananda that is an existence of wisdom and bliss. All this is the part of grand synthesis in which the negatives serve to glorify the positive. Thus death glorifies immortality, ignorance glorifies wisdom, misery glorifies bliss, night glorifies dawn.

So, finally, if the Avatar brings the calamities mentioned by you to an immediate end, which I can do, and do, when there is a great need, the whole drama of creation, with its Karmic (universal, inescapable duty) law will collapse. Remember, these calamities occur not because of what God has made of men but really because of what man has made of man. Therefore man has to be unmade and remade with his ego destroyed and replaced by a transcendent consciousness so that he may rise above the Karmic law to command.

Q. Have you succeeded in bringing about synthesis, Swamiji, particularly with the wealthy and powerful classes.

Baba: I have not reached all of them as a class, but to the extent that I am able to contact them individually, the results are encouraging. The wealthy and powerful, of course, present a difficult problem in the matter of transformation. They need a special approach. The poor people, on the other hand, are very co-operative. They understand, appreciate and help My plans and ideas.

Q. What is the solution to this escalating conflict between wealth and power on one side, and poverty and weakness on the other?

Baba: The transformation of both into a single co-operative brotherhood on terms of equality without competition or conflict. This can result only from truth and love. The main issue is to fuse the two classes into one single class. The problem, however, is one of bringing them together on a common base or platform. Wealthy people live isolated in a certain state or condition. The poor also are similarly isolated in another state or condition. How do we bring them together?

I do so in many subtle ways by breaking the barriers of wealth and poverty and creating a feeling of equality and oneness between the poor and the rich. In this Ashram (spiritual community) you find them living and working together, even performing menial labour on terms of complete equality. Here there are no distinctions whatever, nor any special facilities for the rich. They live, eat, work, worship and sleep like the poor. All live like a community of workers to share the common austerities of the Ashram.

Despite our rigorous discipline, industrialists and businessmen want to come here. Why? Because they secure peace of mind beyond physical comfort which no wealth or power on Earth can purchase or provide.

Thus we open to them a wonderful new world of spiritual treasures and they must sacrifice material wants and comforts. My mission is to show them the way to peace of mind which everybody, rich and poor alike, desires. In that process of spiritual evolution, the seeker learns that this blissful state cannot be purchased for money in a shop or gifted to one by anybody but oneself. It can come only from the universal source of divinity, the in-dwelling God that embraces poor and rich alike. This concept creates a common fellowship, a brotherhood of give and take

between the wealthy and poor. Those who have too much are obliged to give up their unnecessary wants, while those who have too little get their needs fulfilled.

After all, in spiritual terms, all mankind belong to one and the same class, caste, or religion. The divine principle in each and all of them derive from one and the same God. This fundamental oneness has to be made manifest to them through direct contact with spiritual realities and the persuasive expanding power of love, till they become part of the universal religion of work, worship and wisdom.

Q. All this would be simple and welcome evangel for the poor since they lose nothing and gain everything from your philosophy, but what about the rich who have to lose if they followed it?

Baba: That is the crux of the problem. They simply have to lose, surrender, submerge their false values if they want My grace. So long as people continue to be slaves of materialistic definitions of wealth and poverty, there can be no solution. I, therefore, try to convert their minds and hearts to spiritual values and truths.

After all, who is the richest man? One who has the largest wants and, therefore, troubles and worries? Or one who is satisfied with the barest necessities of life and, therefore is more or less desireless and comparatively happy? Judged from this criterion of happiness, the poor are spiritually rich but the rich are spiritually poor. It is not material but spiritual satisfaction that ultimately makes life worth living.

As I have said before, life without desire brings divinity to man; and those who seek My grace must shed desire and greed. Riches provide a fatal temptation. They are the source and cause of human bondage. The desire to raise the standard of life can never be satisfied. It leads to multiplications of wants and consequent troubles and frustrations.

The solution lies in our emphasis on the quality as against the standard of life, on high thinking and low living. The mind is the horse, the body the cart: to achieve mental peace, you must put the horse of high thinking before the cart of physical comfort.

Q. This is sound philosophy but how do you implement it in action?

Baba: The rich as well as the poor come to Sai Baba to seek love, peace and liberation from their problems and troubles. My prescription to them is absolute selflessness and desirelessness. To the poor, this is a natural state or condition. So My love flows to them to embrace their devotion. Thus they obtain My grace.

The rich, on the other hand, cannot secure this grace without surrendering their materialistic outlook and selfish attachments. So it becomes obligatory for them to sacrifice material greed to receive spiritual grace. I tell them:

Ego lives by getting and forgetting,

Love lives by giving and forgiving.

In this way I change their general mental attitude. I transform their monkey-minds into loving, giving, and forgiving minds.

Q. Monkey-minds, Babawhat do you mean?

Baba: It is a kind of mentality that is used by peasants to trap and destroy monkeys. When the peasant wants to catch a monkey, he uses a big pot with a narrow mouth as a trap. Inside the pot he puts edibles which the monkey loves. The monkey finds the pot and puts its paws from the small mouth of the pot. It imagines that someone inside the pot is holding his paws, so it struggles and attempts to run away with the pot, only to fail and get trapped. No one is holding the monkey; it has trapped itself because of its greed. If only it lets the stuff in its paws go, it will be free of bondage.

In the same way, I tell rich people man is tempted by the wealth, pleasures and desires of the world. When he gets lost in such attachment and suffers the consequences of greed he thinks that that is binding him down, capturing him, destroying him. The moment he gives up material wealth and desires, he will be free. I make him realise his bondage to the monkey-mind and liberate himself.

Q. Baba seems to be prescribing a kind of spiritual socialism based on the conversion of wealth into a trusteeship for the removal of poverty?

Baba: Yes, a trusteeship based on love, co-operation and brotherhood. What else can one do? The change must evolve from the heart; it cannot be imposed from outside. All materialistic doctrines have failed to bring about any real transformation. There is no equality anywhere. Only spiritual transformation into a desireless mentality can put through the imperative revolution in human consciousness from which alone desired change can accrue.

We need to transform society from false to real values. We have to convince people that the ideal of a high standard of life is wrong. It must be replaced with a high level of living and thinking on the basis of humanity, morality, compassion and detachment, as against the existing greed for competitive luxury and conspicuous consumption. People have to be convinced that the only way to rouse the latent divinity in them is to master desires and conquer greed for pleasure and luxury instead of being a slave to these false materialistic values.

Q. Then I take it that the various educational and social services Organisations run by Baba—some 3,000 in all - are designed to create the cadres necessary for bringing about the desired socioeconomic change by means of love and persuasion?

Baba: They are designed to put the new generation on the Sai Path of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence. Their motto---Work is Worship and Duty is God-Seeking to bring in the new social order related to Sathya that is Truth, and Dharma— namely right action.

Q. India has been described as a rich country of poor people. We have the wealth of the whole world locked up in the bosom of our good Earth, And yet the people remain economically poor and backward. Have you any solution to rehabilitate our economy?

Baba: Your analysis is correct. The solution to the problem you have posed lies in hard work and increased production on a co-operative basis. To achieve this one has to rid people of the disease of individuality, greed and selfishness. Every individual must be taught to think and work in the broader concept of society and its needs. Once this is done, there will be less talk and more work.

Here again, it is the spiritual path that can save this country and the world from the wrongs of a materialistic order. What we need is the synthesis of the spiritual and material aspects of life. That will provide man with the social conscience and co-operative spirit imperative to the creation of national wealth and prosperity through selfless, co-operative labour.

Q. Very good counsel, Swamiji - but the trouble is that all the wealth created by labour appears to find its way into the pockets of a rich and powerful minority. Have you a spiritual prescription for this irregularity?

Baba: There is no doubt that the distribution is not taking place properly. The existing doctrines of equality, socialism, etc., have not succeeded in achieving equality in distribution of wealth and poverty. The difficulty is that you equalized wealth, land and property by legalisations, but can the law bring about equality in the desires of the people? This requires the healing touch of spiritualism.

To begin with, one has to cure desire and its evil consequences. We must persuade the rich that desire and its fulfillment in materialistic wants is an aspect of the monkey-mind which can only harm them and put them under bondage. That alone will solve the problem of inequality and maldistribution.

Q. To conclude this session, Swamiji, would you sum up the main causes of India's social and economic backwardness?

Baba: From a purely material viewpoint, it is a question of supply and demand. Because of the overpowering material values of our society, the demand is growing larger and larger, while the supply remains the same or decreases. The solution, obviously, is to increase the supply or decrease the demand. Then, of course, there is the problem of growing population. This triangular issue of economic imbalance needs to be spiritualised if an effective solution is to be found.

It is here that our insistence on desireless life, in which human wants are reduced to the minimum needs, comes to the rescue as the only possible way of restoring the social and economic balance. Curb your desire, reduce your wants, live in spiritual austerity, and the available material will be sufficient for all humanity. More than that, the tensions of the competitive socio-economic system will be dissolved and peace of mind will be restored.

Life is like a journey in a vehicle between birth and death. The body is the vehicle in which you are motoring to death. The less luggage you carry the better. Why encumber yourself with worldly riches and material comforts, when you may have to change your course or even meet with some dislocation or accident and, in any case, at the end of the journey you will have to leave behind all your possessions except your Atma? Would it not be better to attend to the immortal spirit rather than waste time which is running out on gaining wealth and securing comforts?

This is the logic of spiritualism with which I seek to change the attitude of people.

Q. Thank you, Baba, you have answered the questions beautifully. Now to Narasimhiah's question regarding the bogus Sai Krishna of Pandavapura exposed by his committee as a fraud and a cheat. He alleges that the boy had your patronage?

Baba: I can assure you there is absolutely no connection between him and Myself. His people have several times attempted to arrange a meeting between us, but we have refused their requests. Of course, thousands of people, as you saw this morning, come here for Darshan. There are others also who masquerade as my disciples or make money using My name. As this happens not only here but in other states and even abroad, we cannot do anything about it. They expose themselves sooner or later, as this boy. I have absolutely no connection or relationship with such people.

Q. The Narasimhiah Committee wanted to investigate your miracles scientifically under controlled conditions, as they put it. You rejected the proposal. Would you like to comment on this controversy?

Baba: How can science which is bound to physical and materialistic outlook investigate transcendental phenomena beyond its scope, reach or comprehension? This is a fallacy on the face of it. One belongs to the material and the other to the spiritual plane. Science must confine its inquiry only to things belonging to the human senses, while spiritualism transcends the senses. If you want to understand the nature of spiritual power you can do so only through the path of spirituality and not science. What science has been able to unravel is merely a fraction of the cosmic phenomena; however, to exaggerate its contribution.

Q. That is true, Swamiji, but science is developing all the time so that the metaphysics of yesterday becomes the physics of today.

Baba: Quite right, but it is still blind to the vast and invisible world of consciousness. The very fact that science is changing all the time proves its incapacity to investigate the ultimate and absolute truth. Some time ago, scientists maintained that the atom cannot be broken, but recently they succeeded in breaking it. They are still ignorant about the realities of the Pranic force behind the atom, which is the least of its components.

Science is merely a glow-worm in the light and splendour of the sun. It is true that it can research, discover and gather a lot of information about nature and its material functions and use it for the development of worldly things. Spiritualism, on the other hand, reigns over the cosmic field where science has no place. That is why some discoveries of science are useful while others can be disastrous.

As I have said before, Dr. Narasimhiah and his group are like the Telugu men who go to the cinema to see a Tamil film. They will see only the dancing, the fighting and the violence, the heroes and villains, the star with a beautiful face and these kinds of superficial things, but they will lose the subtler aspect such as the music and the poetry, the plot, the dialogue, the jokes and the like.

However, as I have said again and again, those who want to understand Me are welcome here. It is the spirit of investigation that is important. Foreign parapsychologists have come here and examined Me in such a positive and constructive spirit. You have seen their reports. They do not write letters or make public demands.

Narasimhiah's approach was improper; that is why I rejected it. If it were not so, he would have been welcomed. I want them to come, see, hear, study, observe, experience and realise Baba. Then only, they will understand Me and appreciate the Avatar.

Q. Dr. Narasimhiah maintains that according to science, "Nothing could be created out of nothing". You have evidently negated this law of science with a transcendental formula of controlling cosmic energy and producing paranormal power. Can you explain this mystery?

Baba: The formula that nothing can be created out of nothing is appropriate to the limited field and dimensions of science. It does not at all apply to the transcendental field and dimensions of spirituality. In the latter field, anything can be created by the Supreme Will. All that exists can be made to disappear and what does not exist can be made to appear.

Our history and tradition, scripture as well as literature, are full of such incidents which they call miracles. The material laws and formulae simply do not apply to divinity. For Me this is not a matter of any mystery or mystique. What I Will, happens: what I order, materialises.

Q. The Vice Chancellor appears to ridicule your statement that "There is God in us all". He asks, "Is this not pure escapism? How can God be so unsure of Himself?" Your rejoinder, please?

Baba: His questions contradict the very basis of Indian Philosophy as well as that of most religions. All our scriptures assert that God is present in everyone. According to Vivekananda, "God is present in all." The only thing that is manifest and common to the whole world and, in fact, governs and directs the entire universe is divinity. Nothing else really exists except divinity.

Mine is no escapism but the fundamental and eternal truth. I say so not because I am unsure of My own divinity. It is My confidence in its absolute and total authenticity that makes Me affirm this fact. It is the scientists who are so unsure about themselves that they indulge in escapist theories.

For example, they say that the moon is lifeless. Simultaneously, they maintain that all matter consists of moving atoms. Now isn't moon also a conglomerate of the same moving atoms. Then how can it be lifeless? There is no matter which does not consist of atoms, electrons, neutrons and protons, which are also constantly moving. This energy, too, is God. So also there is no human being in whom there is no divinity. To say there is no God in man is like saying that there no atom in the moon or any large lump of matter. The Omnipresence of God has been described in our ancient texts as: "anoryaniyan mahato mahiyan" (God is a smaller than the smallest of particles and larger than the largest masses). In this context, how can one say that God is not in man?

Q. Another pertinent issue raised by your critics is that you show a preference for wealthy and powerful people as opposed to the poor and weak in the matter of divine gifts, miracles, cures and individual Darshan. Is this true? If so, why?

Baba: This is wrong. I never see or make any distinction between the rich or the poor. I only look at them from the viewpoint of their devotion, their desires, the sacrifice they are willing to make and their troubles. You were here this morning and saw hundreds of people, a few rich, the majority poor. Did you find Me making any distinction? All those I brought with Me to this room were poor and weak, sick or troubled.

In My view, those who appear to the world as wealthy or powerful persons really bring to Me their troubled hearts and sick minds. I cure them by asking them to surrender material wealth and power to spiritual peace and grace.

Q. From what Baba has hitherto said, it appears that Your mission is to enable mankind to discover and incarnate its lost godliness. Am I right?

Baba: You are right. When man turns inwards to realise his true self, then God will become manifest to him. Self-realisation is God-realisation. In simple words, it is the realisation that you are not just the body and mind with physical organs, but there is within you a self - the Atma that is God-distinct from these perishable things. This self is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, and Omniscient. The comprehension of this truth puts you on the correct path to God-realisation.

Q. So your objective can be summed up as a brotherhood of humanity to be achieved through the doctrine of love?

Baba: Yes, what else can save the world from thermonuclear fires? Everything points to the terror of conflagration coming; and My mission is to pre-empt the fires by reestablishing Dharma and the Spiritual law of one God, one religion, one language embracing one humanity.

I preach only one religion of love for all, which alone can integrate the human race into a brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. I know only one language of the heart beyond the mind or the intellect which relates man to man and mankind to God, thereby creating mutual understanding, co-operation and community life in peace and harmony. On this basis I want to build one humanity without any religions, caste or other barriers in a universal empire of love which would enable my devotees to feel the whole world as their family.

Q. Well said, Baba - but wouldn't this Dharma with its Hindu orientation conflict with the established religions?

Baba: No, it will not do anything of the kind because My objective is the establishment of Sanathana Dharma, which believes in one God as propitiated by the founders of all religions. So none has to give up his religion or deity, but through them worship the one God in all. I have come not to disturb or destroy but to confirm and vindicate everyone in his own faith.

Q. But how will that prevent a nuclear holocaust?

Baba: By removing all causes, sources, barriers and provocation of class, caste, creed, colour and race, and replacing the existing hate and violence with love and non-violence. I expect to provide humanity with an evangel of peaceful co-operation to replace the present escalation to death by co-destruction.

R.K.Karanjia: Thank you, Swamiji. I am all the more grateful to you because I really did not expect you to answer the whole long list of my questions.

(‘The Essential Sai’ by the Sainet Editorial Committee Vancouver, Canada, Nov 23, 1995)

The author would like to end this chapter with the following comments:

If the astronauts want to examine the moon, they go to the moon, in space ships; the moon does not come to them, for verification. Again the moon is under no obligation or bound in any manner, to reveal to them, the entire truth, in all its totality.

The same thing applies to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He is the moon. He is all the purity. He is love.

R.K. Karanjia has recently written a book on Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, entitled, “God Lives in India”. The book is available at Sai Towers, Puttaparthi.

FOREIGN SCIENTISTS ‘EXPERIENCE’ BABA

A few scientists, from the various part of the world, came to Puttaparthi, India, to study and experience Baba, from the year 1974 onwards, motivated by a famous scientist, Erlendur Haraldsson, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Iceland and currently a visiting professor at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, USA. He has published a number of research papers on Psychology and parapsychology and is author of ‘At the hour of Death’ with Karlis Osis (Hasting House, New York) which has been translated into fourteen languages.

Haraldsson’s book, ‘Miracles Are My Visiting Cards’ (An investigative report on the Psychic Phenomena associated with Sathya Sai Baba), was published in the year 1987. It is a foreign publication, but presently available in India, at Sai Towers, Puttaparthi.

Haraldsson had done an extensive research on Baba, and visited India several times, during the course of his investigations. The book which runs into 300 pages contains the details of his first-hand information, evidence and experience.

The author would like to mention a few of the incidents taken from Haraldsson's book. They are as follows:

■ Haraldsson writes that Dr.V.K. Gokak, the former Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University, narrated an incident: "In Jamnagar, a few of the devotees were with Swami, in many cars. As we drove near the coast, Swami stopped the cars and we went down the seashore. We sat down in a crescent on the fresh sandy beach only a few yards from the sea with Sai Baba sitting in the middle. Many of us had come to this area from afar, and we were disappointed because we had not been able to see Krishna in the temple. "Never mind" Swami said, "I will show it to you". Then He drew with His hand a figure on the sand in front of Him, a very sketchy figure of a man. And then He put His hand into the sand and kept it there for a minute and a half or two. "Aha, it is ready now", He said in English, as this was a multinational group. Then He pulled out of the sand this huge statue of Krishna.

It was so heavy that He had to lift it with both hands. It was a golden statue. You can see it with the Rajmata (Former queen) of Nawangar in Bombay. The statue was passed around, and all had to hold it with both hands. Finally, He handed the statue to the Rajmata of Nawangar for worship.

■ He further writes, "Sai Baba has been filmed extensively while producing objects outdoors, and those present have reported seeing the same movements as were recorded on the film. Also the objects that he produced for us in the interviews (the double Rudraksha and the golden ring with the enamel picture) are still in our possession and were therefore not illusory. For these reasons we can reasonably reject the hypothesis of hypnosis as an explanation for the materialization.

■ Once Haraldsson told Baba. "We are researchers of Psychic phenomena and have heard many accounts of miracles occurring in His presence. As we were talking, He again made with His right hand that typical small, circular movement that lasts for two or three seconds, and lo there was a large and shiny golden ring in His palm. He put it on Dr. Osis' right finger and said it was for him. It fitted. (Set into the ring was a large coloured picture of Sai Baba on a stone or some similar material that was firmly encased by the ring. The picture was oval in shape and portrayed a good likeness of his face.)

■ Haraldsson writes, "By the time our second visit to India was over, Dr.Osis and I had observed the ostensible paranormal appearances of objects in Baba's hand about 29 times. None of these events occurred under controlled conditions. Also, we were not able to examine Sai Baba physically either to confirm or to refute the hypothesis that he conceals objects on his body. At this stage, therefore, we have insufficient grounds for accepting the claims made about the genuineness (in terms of paranormal process) of the reported phenomena. But it must also be stated that we detected no evidence of fraud.

I made six more journeys to India, the first in 1976 and the last in 1983, each lasting one to four months. In four of these eight journeys, I was accompanied twice by Dr. Osis, once for three months by Dr. Michael Thalbourn of Washington University, and once for a month by Dr. Joop Houtkooper of the University of Amsterdam.

Once in the midst of our rather heated discussion, Sai Baba impatiently said to Dr. Osis: "Look at your ring". We did. The enamel picture on the ring had disappeared. The large golden ring that Sai Baba had presented to Dr. Osis during our first visit was on the ring finger of his left hand. The stone encased in it had on the top a large enameled coloured picture of Sai Baba. The stone with the picture was missing from the ring and we could see the bare skin of Dr. Osis' finger through the hole. We looked for the picture on the floor, but no trace of it could be found. For the picture to have fallen out of the frame, it would have to be broken or it would have been necessary to bend at least one of the prongs and probably also bend the frame at some point, but the frame and the prongs were undamaged.

When the picture could not be found, Sai Baba somewhat teasingly remarked: "Well, this was my experiment". Later he implied that this was a joke, and then he added, "You asked for a miracle and I just gave it to you".

Some years ago Dr. Osis discussed our observations with Doug Henning. Mr.Henning said that he could, with advance preparation, duplicate all the phenomena he saw on the film. But when Dr. Osis described the incident in which the enamel stone with Sai Baba's picture disappeared from Dr. Osis' ring, Mr. Henning commented that this was beyond the skills of the magicians. He stated further that if Sai Baba produces objects on demand, then he is performing feats that no magician can duplicate.

Where then is our conclusion about the physical phenomena? For lack of experimental evidence it can only be somewhat tentative, though the testimony is extensive and consistent over four decades. Whether some of the physical productions, in some periods of Baba's life, may have been produced by sleight of hand, we can't, of course ascertain. What we can, however, squarely state is that in spite of long standing and painstaking efforts, we found no direct evidence of fraud.

Baba is a man of great unpredictable spontaneity. In 1980 I decided in an interview, for a change, neither to pester him with requests that he had earlier turned down nor to argue with him about the necessity for controlled research

of his gifts as I was wont to do. Then he seemed irritated and reprimanded me for not doing so. In the interview room with me there were a few people that I had not previously met. Apparently in a move to show me something special he asked an elderly gentleman, who was sitting with us on the floor for a ring he had on one of his fingers. He took it on his hand, held it before our eyes and said to me, "See scientist, within a minute I will change this into different size, style and shape". He gave it to me to examine, took it back, blew on it three times and handed me a ring that was markedly different. Then he explained to those around him in boyish naivety and with a triumphant look on his face "How science can explain this?"

DR. ROERICH OBSERVED:

If we take India as it stands today, the most popular phenomena is Sai Baba. There is no doubt about this; He has millions of followers. From every point of view, it is a positive movement, because He has given happiness and faith to hundreds and thousands of people. Other people should try to ensure that this faith is sustained because this world certainly needs it in one form or another.

Whether you agree that the phenomenon Baba produces are necessary or not does not make much difference. I accept the necessity of the phenomena because from His point of view that is the quickest way to attract people. If a teacher did not display these phenomena, he would not make sufficient impact. There can be no doubt that Baba is a great phenomenon.

This visit to Puttaparthi was nice because everybody was happy, everybody received something from Baba in one way or another, and the visitors returned to their country with fine mementos of the occasion.

(‘Miracles are My Visiting Cards’ by Erlendur Haraldsson)

Here below is the reproduction of the Foreword, written by Karlis Osis, for the book ‘Miracles are My Visiting Cards’ by Haraldsson.

FOREWORD

‘Miracles are My Visiting Cards’ has merits of unique proportions. Although miraculous phenomena occurring in connection with the religious leaders have been reported throughout history, Haraldsson’s presentation is a first of its kind. The study is based upon the first hand observation of a scientist and is supported by his careful interrogation of witnesses. It describes paranormal phenomena of extraordinary variety and strength attributed to one of the most remarkable men of the century.

India, the land of Guru worship, abounds with holy men who are often called ‘Baba’. Sathya Sai Baba is a unique individual - a kind of genius towering over the whole landscape. He sees His mission as primarily devoted to the spiritual and moral renewal of India - extricating his country from its present confusions. Baba’s powerful influence, however, touches the whole fabric of Indian life, be its social, justice, political problems, or the educational system. The meek and the downtrodden, as well as the powerful and mighty, flock around him in never-ending crowds streaming through his Ashram. I was present when a person holding one of the highest elected offices in India, escorted by a General, approached him. They both got down on the floor and touched Baba’s feet with their foreheads.

Most Westerners visiting India’s Ashrams desire spiritual guidance and enlightenment, but Haraldsson was attracted by something else: the stories of Baba’s paranormal phenomena describe power of magnitude, variety and sustained frequency not encountered anywhere else in the modern world. I have seen violent storms of controversy about them on the front pages of publications all over India. Indian journalists are as aggressive as their counterparts anywhere in the world, but no one has been able to find tricks behind his reported phenomena.

Is there some truth behind the said phenomena? This book is the record of 10 years’ work of a highly qualified European psychology professor trying hard to find reliable answers. It was not easy for him. Legends grow fast on the fertile soil of India, and observations are often couched in religious terms, for example ESP (extra sensory perception) becomes ‘Baba’s omniscience’. Sleight of hand and other arts of the magician are well developed in India and some famous Swamis don’t mind resorting to them, as I have personally observed Haraldsson is acutely aware of these other explanations: Readers will see with what vigor he cuts through the jungle of storytelling and candidly reports the outcome of his quest.

Neither Haraldsson nor I were able to persuade Baba to participate in experiments. Nothing would have clinched the matter so well as, say, a week or two spent in the best parapsychological laboratories in the world that we offered. Nevertheless I could understand the reluctance of a religious leader of millions to submit to experimental protocol designed by people of different beliefs and cultures. After all no one asked the Pope to go to the laboratory, before his Holiness could be trusted.

In the absence of laboratory evidence Haraldsson states his reservations. In the western tradition of experimental science nothing that has not withstood by controlled experiment is considered certain. Many social scientists,

however, including myself, have later put more trust in observations of real life events, which often reveal what the lab distorts. Haraldsson wisely presents all sides and asks intelligent readers to judge themselves.

Millions of Baba's followers - East and West - call him Avatar, that is, incarnation of a deity. This is by no means universally accepted in India, just as Jesus, who is said to be incarnation of God, is not universally accepted in the West. These matters of belief and theological reasoning are clearly not in the domain of parapsychology, and Haraldsson wisely avoids evaluation of the religious side of the issues. The paranormal is what Haraldsson is trying to document and understand; and even that - as the reader will see - is not easy. Although some of the phenomena go hand-in-hand with the Western concepts of, telepathy, clairvoyance, foresight of future and mind over matter (psychokinesis), there are other phenomena for which we are not prepared. Translocations of objects and liquid substances, which at times are said to have materialised, are not in the books of modern parapsychology. Some of Baba's out-of-the-body experiences seem to be similar to what we observe in our experiments, and to what many Western people report, others are much more substantial such as claims of the translocation or bilocation of his body - flesh and bones.

Conceptualizations in scientific parapsychology do not go that far. For something so mind-shattering and unique we need stronger evidence than is usually required. Haraldsson wisely reports what he has found so far and keeps the matter open for further research developments. It would have been cowardly simply to ignore what so many witnesses have said and what our own eyes have observed, just because it is so out of the ordinary. I hope the research will go on, impartially, wherever it leads. Some observations may be explained away, others may lead to a deeper understanding of the reality of the human mind, the real miracle behind miracles.

Most open-minded readers, I feel, will be stimulated by this kind of knocking at the very door of the unknown. Even those whose minds are not receptive to these possibilities of the unexplored - be it paranormal or be it spiritual - will not go away empty handed: they at least will find something exciting to scoff at.

So daring a book as 'Miracles Are My Visiting Cards' will mean many things to many people because it presents carefully collected data, rather than opinions, on one of the most remarkable men of our times. For some it will be an unforgettable treat for the heart, for the others food for thought. I personally felt vibrant excitement when reading this book - so pregnant with unfold potentialities.

Karls Osis Ph.D.
Chester F. Carlson Research Fellow
American Society for Psychical Research, New York, NY, USA.

The author would like to conclude this chapter by saying:

Does the Sun need any other light, to prove that there is light in the Sun. The Sun, itself is the LIGHT. Same thing also applies to Baba. He is the Sun, He is the LIGHT, He is the illuminator of all the SOULS.

A CATHOLIC PRIEST MEETS SAI BABA

Don Mario Mazzoleni, a Catholic priest, was destined to meet Sathya Sai Baba, and after a few interviews with Sathya Sai Baba, he was convinced that Baba was Jesus Christ and is God, come in this present human form. He has written a book 'A Catholic Priest Meets Sai Baba' running into 280 pages, in which he has given the complete description of his transformation. The book is available at Sathya Sai Books & Publications Trust, Prashanthi Nilayam. The author hereby reproduces the Foreword, written by Mazzoleni.

FOREWORD

Many of my friends were alarmed when they learned of my intention to write a book about Sai Baba. They were aware of my convictions about this being who is human only in body. With brotherly concern, they variously advised, begged or beseeched me to publish it under pseudonym, imagining the unhappy consequences I might encounter from the ecclesiastical hierarchy.

I asked myself that I should have no fear in saying what my own eyes have seen. Why should I be afraid to make known what this poor heart of mine experiences before an extraordinary presence? Should I feel guilty for what I have discovered during these years, and be afraid to announce it? Certainly not! On the contrary, I feel quite fortunate. *Necessitas enim mihi incumbit*: it is not possible to resist the impulse of Truth, and woe to me if I should remain silent!

I write this book dedicating it above all to the Church preciously because I could not let pass, without pointing out to Her who is my Mother, a piece of news which can no longer remain unknown, hidden by indifference, fear, or by general confusion. This work is an undertaking which has made use of me, I would say, only as hired manual labour: I consider its contents the work of another. It has been written above all for my bishop, Pope; and then for all my fellow brethren, for my superiors, and for all those who throughout the centuries try to work in the services of, and in the search for, Truth.

Contrary to what those friends of mine fear, I hope - and my heart is certain of it - that these reflections will sound like a call and a warning for a greater spiritual re-awakening.

This era - the era of Sathya, the era of truth - is, in my opinion, a unique moment, which will change the historical and religious order of nations. Certainly the most extraordinary characteristics of this study, in an age in which there is so much talk about sects and religious factions, is that in all the things I have discovered these years, I have found nothing which would prompt an aversion to our religion, nothing which would obstruct our faith. On the contrary! Everything I have meditated on has brought me that much closer to the mysteries I had been celebrating, often without knowing them thoroughly. And it is precisely to Sathya Sai Baba that I owe the renewal of my life as a priest!

In short, my hope is this: that the same thing might happen for many of my fellow brethren, whom I have found tired, strained and disappointed.

I am grateful to all those who have offered me precious suggestions, in particular to Professor Pierantonio Di Coste, who encouraged and supported the drafting of this book.

I place this book at the feet of Him who inspired it - the only begotten son of yesterday, of today, and of always, the immutable Truth - in the hope that this fruit which He alone has the right to gather will be pleasing to Him and that He will accept it as an offering for His greater glory.

Don Mario Mazzoleni
November 23, 1990

The author would now like to narrate some of the incidents from the book :

Don Mario writes in his book: "It happened a few months after my return to the area Bergamo. It was 1980. An acquaintance told me that a great Guru by the name of Sai Baba was coming to Italy. With the hunger I had for masters, that seemed like a golden opportunity.

Sai Baba: Who was that? The name meant nothing to me, but I managed right away to get my hands on a little book which was supposed to be the brief biography of this personage. It was a book written by an American, a certain Shulman, who was recounting his personal experiences of being close to Sai Baba in India. I read it lazily at first, then ever more avidly. The things I was reading were so unheard of that it made me think that perhaps the writer had just dreamed up this wild fantasy just to reawaken the appetite in the reader who were tired of being astonished.

Not long after, I discovered that there was another book in the market by another author, Howard Murphet that dealt with the same subject. It was called 'Sai Baba, Man of Miracles'. I bought it and read it with the same voracity as before - except that this time, I could no longer doubt the authenticity of this individual, for it was highly unlike that two authors, one Australian and the other an American, could be coming up with the same lies or inventions. In addition, all of the phenomena and explanations they discussed were amply supported by the studies I have been pursuing.

I read many more books and was looking for a sign from Him or a call from Him. The moment my eyes rested on His words, I felt an instant thrill which transported me mysteriously into a divine atmosphere.

"I am yours, whether you like it or not; you are Mine, even if you hate Me. I am in you, you are in Me. There is no distance and no distinction. You have come home. This is your house. My house is your heart. Why fear, when I am here? Put all your faith in me. I shall guide and guard you."

Forgetting that I was sick, I rushed to a travel agency to book a flight to India. Final destination; Puttaparthi, the place where even now Sai Baba spends most of the year.

If what I had understood was true, I could not afford to reach the end of my life without having seen at least in the flesh. 'Him who called Himself' the mother and father of the whole human race.

The moment of the close counter was drawing near, I was full of misgivings because I had read that it is not easy to meet Him, and some times even to see Him. The books I was reading said that often, when seekers get there He is some place else and seems to elude them.

No. This could not happen. It was not I who was going to see Him: it was He coming to me to draw me to Himself.

"You did not choose Me, No, I chose you."

The best thing to do, after discovering Sai Baba, is to study Him. Nothing in my life has given me as much joy and filled me with so much bliss as studying this person. This in itself is extraordinary. When in school I was forced to study such personages as Napoleon, Cavour, Mazzini, the emperors of ancient Rome, or the Popes throughout history. All I got out of it was an overwhelming boredom and a fervent desire for the end of class. But when I devote myself to the study of Sai Baba, His work, and His teaching, I never get tired of it, even when studying things that I already know (or think I know). In fact I always benefit from it: it is always uplifting and refreshing.

For me, to study Sai Baba meant, first of all to see Him, then to investigate His activities and third to understand His thought, His message. Although I expected to take these steps one at a time, I soon discovered that they are not separable. Sai Baba began to be a message from the moment I first saw Him. Because of this, someone who sees Him has already an enormous gift. I don't say this rhetorically, because the things you understand upon meeting Him may be enough to revolutionize your life, but they still are only an infinitesimal part of what you did not understand at that time and will gradually discover in the course of subsequent events.

Just as in the case of Jesus, His identification as the Messiah did not come simply from His declarations, but mostly from His work of salvation. In the same way Sai Baba does not worry about making everybody know who He is right away, but He works in the hearts of men, redeeming them.

In the same way there are many people who charge Sai Baba with indifference to the sorrow that weighs upon the world, and they ask themselves, "If He is so powerful, why doesn't He eliminate all suffering there is in this world?" These people would like to change the mission of the divine incarnation. Jesus Christ did not change the sorrowful state of the world either, neither in His own time, nor afterwards. Everything that had to happen: bloody revolutions, wars, destruction, prosecutions, poverty, epidemics, etc., it all happened to schedule.

Even at His birth all the children under two years of age were slaughtered, by the insane command of a criminal king who was afraid he would lose his kingdom. The same kind of thing had already happened at the time of Krishna: Kamsa had all his sister's children killed, because she had been told that her eighth son would suppress - his wicked uncle.

It is never the task of the Redeemer to resolve human errors with a magic wand. Doing so would ensure that the errors would continue to be committed. It is not the mission of an elementary school teacher or of a parent to do the student's home work. If that were to happen laziness would triumph, diplomas would be given unjustly and degrees would soon prove deleterious to the whole society. No one amongst us would willingly go to a doctor who had received his certificate by buying all his degrees: The project to perfect society is based on understanding one's own errors and on the efforts we make to avoid them.

No human being has the authority to declare that God can only incarnate a certain way, or that He cannot choose to spread His message as He wills, not only through prophets, but also incarnating as the Christ, that is, as Avatars. It would be unforgivable theological and philosophical absurdity to deny the Divine Power the right to take a human form in other epochs, among other nations, and in other physical forms. On this point there can be no contrary dogma, because this truth is self-evident, and even a child can understand it: God cannot be limited by anything; much less by a human mind. If we want to have some mental concept of God, the first attribute we must give Him is all possible freedom.

Artong Jumsai is a person of high intellectual and moral stature. In the course of a lecture he gave at Odense, he asserted: "In all my years of research, I have never found a programme as complete and effective as the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. It is a programme which offers real results in transforming children. The person who created or invented this programme must really be a genius".

Don Mario Mazzoleni, was fully convinced about Baba's divinity and he came out with the book 'A Catholic Priest Meets Sai Baba'. After the publication of the book, he writes in his own words.

One certainly did not have to be a seer to predict that when this book was published, there would be a reaction on the part of the Church hierarchy. The author's aim was in fact to awaken some interest, of whatever kind, in a great voice from the East, which is announcing a time of redemption for our ailing human race. To tell the truth, I did not imagine that the Church would have recourse to such anachronistic measures. Those measures led me to wonder seriously (in other words, it was not pure fantasy) what my reaction would be if, instead of an excommunication delivered by express registered mail, guards had come to my door, with orders to burn me at the stake in the public square...

Don Mario was given an appointment with the Bishop on 16th March, 1992, to have a dialogue with him. In the end of the conversation Mario told Bishop, "I would like to tell you (and I meant in the plural) one last thing, before we end this conversation; this conversation which demonstrates how that divides is always how the truth is interpreted, not the truth itself, which is pure. Why don't you take into consideration the fact that many people who have gone to Sai Baba have felt an impulse to renew their own Catholic religious faith, which is what Sai Baba himself suggests.

Bishop: "I will make a comparison which, of course, is perhaps inappropriate for your position: even an assassin can be the instrument of salvation for someone. This does not make him any less an assassin."

Mario: "To be honest, your example seems to me ill-chosen"

On 24th May Don Mario received a registered letter by express mail from the Vicariate of Rome. The contents of the letter are as follows:

■ The Bishop of Bergamo has informed the Vicariate of Rome, in a note of December 17, 1991, that the writings, the public declarations and the - to say the least - disconcerting ideas upheld by the Priest Don Mario Mazzoleni in regard to the Indian teacher Sai Baba, whose convinced follower he declares himself to be, excite significant astonishment and scandal among the faithful;

■ The Priest, on November 23, 1990, dedicated the book entitled 'A Catholic Priest Meets Sai Baba' to the Catholic Church, a book which, though it begins with the praiseworthy intent of seeking the action of the spirit of God in every man and in every religious experience, ends up disowning the truths of the Catholic faith;

An attentive reading of the book reveals that the author has lost his Catholic faith in the holy trinity and in Christ as the only savior, and, specially in the letters addressed to a friend (pp. 210-213 & 216-217), the unicity of Christ the savior is expressly denied;

The assertions more ever that accept Sai Baba's claim to be a divine incarnation, that defends his works, miracles, sayings, doctrines, are grave affirmation against the faith;

■ The public declarations of Don Mario Mazzoleni have caused confusion and scandal because of the fact that they come from a priest who continues to exercise his ministry in the name of the Catholic Church;

Since the good faith of the writer shows clearly from the tenor of the book's dedication, it is all the more necessary to call the priest back from error with an urgent request to cease causing scandal and to return to the doctrine of the Church.

INVITES

The Priest Mario Mazzoleni to retreat from his heretical doctrinal positions, to cease causing scandal and to explicitly retract his error within the suitable time of 3 months; with the warning that if the retraction is not forthcoming the cardinal will have to proceed to declare excommunication latae sententiae (in the broad sense) for hearsay according to Canon Law 1364, and subsequently to bar the priest from the exercise of the power of his office, until he returns to the Catholic doctrine.

He further invites the same priest to a personal interview on the subject, in his office at the Vicariate of Rome on the day June 3, 1992 at 10 a.m. or else on June 6, 1992 at 12 noon.

Camillo Card Ruini
Vicar General

Don Mario Mazzoleni replies:

Most revered Eminence,

In the present letter, I intend to entrust to writing what perhaps will come out less clearly in our meeting.

First of all I would like to express my gratitude for the attention that has been bestowed on me, and for allowing me to clarify in person the reasons for what I have done. One might say that I was anxiously awaiting this call, because regardless of the decisions that my superiors may make in my case, I wish to communicate to them an experience which continues to leave a beneficial mark in every day life.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba's message is based on an unlimited ecumenism, where ecumenism does not mean the suppression of the different religions in order to make one chaotic hodge-podge religion, but rather the constant search for the points that different religions have in common. The goal of this search, as the greatest Master says, that there be only one religion, the religion of love.

When one studies Sai Baba's teachings, as I have been doing for 12 years, one constantly sees that his goal is not to find another religion, but rather to elevate the level of human consciousness. He does this by directing everyone who comes to him toward a life full of truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence. He tells the devotees who come to his Ashram to put into practice intensely the fundamental principles of their respective religions. Often the people who have turned to him are not practicing any religion, or else they have strayed away from their own church. The real miracle that I see constantly repeated is the desire those people experience is to return to practicing their faith.

I beg you, Eminence, let us not shut the door on these people: they are living rather through a delicate moment, and for our Church it would surely be a gesture of noble outreachy, as well as practical evangelism, to include them in our fold. Sai Baba does not want new churches; He wants to fill the ones that already exist.

I know that the Church is seriously worried about the formation of new sects. But I can unconditionally guarantee that Sai Baba has given clear directives that new religious communities should not be created in oppositions to the official ones. If groups of devotees gather in centers, this is to be only in order to carry out charitable works and to study sacred scriptures. Let me point out that Hare Krishna or Jehovah's Witness or the Seventh Day Adventist will never set foot in a Catholic church to participate in Sunday worship, but I assure you that there are many devotees of

Sai Baba who are praying in our Parish churches with renewed fervor, and that they take communion with a mystical zeal rarely found among normal Christians. Sai Baba's devotees gather once a week in order to pray and sing, but their worship is directed towards the same God that is worshipped in the Churches.

I am acquainted with all the Sathya Sai Baba centers in Italy. Many times I have exhorted their members to simplify their exterior rituals, which derive from their sympathy for the exotic world of India, and to ask their parish priests for permission to meet in the parish church to pray and sing the praises of the Lord. Unfortunately, misunderstandings and prejudices keep them away; nevertheless there are now many priests who contact me in order to find out more about Sai Baba and his teachings. In these last months I have received innumerable letters of appreciations, most of them from Catholics. The dissenting voices (which as always, are the noisiest) make up a tiny minority.

What grieves me most in this whole experience that I am going through is to see the extreme superficiality with which Sai Baba and his message are being addressed by the Church. Meanwhile millions of people of every nation, race and religion are continually overwhelmed by his astounding greatness, and I see the most erudite and intellectual people surrender one after the other to what they have seen with their eyes and felt in their hearts.

Eminence, I do not want to get involved in defending the theological positions I have expressed in my book. I realise that they are open to discussion, and that they may be "disconcerting". Believe me, it was not at all my intention to create scandal. If this has happened, it is due to my ingenious zeal, I shall try to make amends. I promise that if I am allowed to continue my ministry as a priest I shall hold no more public lectures, nor will I give interviews to the media about Sai Baba. In all these years I have never contaminated my ministry with any theories foreign to our doctrine.

Given that the only thing that really matters to me is that our church come to know Sai Baba in a serious way, without divisions, I declare myself available to take part in any committee that might be set up to study Sai Baba thoroughly. I am willing also to take part in any trips to visit Him, as long as they are undertaken with a scientific attitude without prejudices. It may be useful to say that I am in contact with doctors, physicists and scientists who have been studying the Sai Baba "phenomenon" for years.

Whatever measures are taken in my regard, I declare that I shall always be happy to serve the Church in any other way through consultations or studies, because I shall always feel that I am united with Her.

Devotedly, in the Lord,
Sd: Don Mario Mazzoleni,
Rome, June 3, 1992

Don Mario writes, "When I spoke to the cardinal about Sai Baba and His mission of ecumenism, He interrupted me, almost worried, in order to say. There can be no ecumenism, because the whole truth has been revealed only in Catholicism".

These words wounded me more than the threat of excommunication.

Don Mario further expresses, "As the author of the book in question, I reaffirm that I have not lost my Catholic faith. On the contrary, after my encounter with the great 'Indian Master' Sri Sathya Sai Baba, I feel that I live it with greater intensity, in a spirit of real communion with all other religions. These all share the one goal of reaching the same God, who transcends all changing names and forms.

Between the two alternatives I am offered, either being exiled from the institution of Church, or else being exiled from my conscience, I cannot and will not select the latter. Institutions do not accompany anyone beyond the grave. While the only reality that one can present to God is one's conscience. The Lord who 'examines the heart' is our judge: if in my case I have committed or am about to commit an error (by refusing to retreat), I beg His forgiveness and the light to rectify it; if I am acting in accordance with truth, may He forgive those who condemn me".

Eternal praise be to the Christ, to Him "who was born from the father before all ages," Him who outlives all the good and wicked actions of man and who will never die.

On Thursday September 24, 1992 the fateful letter arrived. This time it was fully formal decree of excommunication.

The final words of Don Mario Mazzoleni:-

"Here we have come to the end of my history as a priest. This is the chapter of my life which will now be filed away. I felt that I owed this explanation to the reader, even though the affair is of no longer of any concern to me: to be suspended from certain ceremonies, said to be divine, certainly does not preclude access to the Divine. I can no longer go to Mass, no longer lose myself in the warm atmosphere of a midnight Mass, to be moved by the sweetness of Christmas Carols, but I can always speak heart-to-heart with the Lord, pray to Him, love Him, meet Him. Everyone can, because of this, even 'atheists' know how to pray. This is the real consolation, which no one will ever be able to take from me; there is not a single person in the whole world who can pry you away from God.

To belong to a religious institution does not automatically mean that one belongs to God. To be in harmony with the Divine, one must respect the conscience of every person and listen to one's own. At that point one can say: if God is with us who shall be against us? "Why fear when I am here?"

Mario Mazzoleni

(‘A Catholic Priest Meets Sai Baba’ by Don Mario Mazzoleni)

BABA'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Puttaparthi was a remote, tiny village, prior to Baba's birth, in the month of November, 1926. People had to walk miles, to reach from one place to another, and the only mode of transport was the bullock carts.

Long, long ago the village was known as Gollapali or "Home of Cowherds". Later it became infested with ant-hills, with snakes moving all around, which gave rise to the name "Puttaparthi". (Putta in Telugu language means snake-pit).

Sathyanarayana Raju, aged 14, threw off his bag of books one evening, saying, "My followers are calling me; I have my work to do. I do not belong to you any more", and walking out of his brother's home, he sat under banyan tree and sang a song that he wanted the gathering to sing with him:

"MANASA BHAJARE GURU CHARANAM, DUSTARA BHAVA SAGARA TARANAM". (Those who desire to liberate from the chain of birth, struggle, success, failure, ease and disease, and death, come: adore the feet of the Master). That was the announcement of the Amazing advent. With this declaration his Advent and Mission began to work automatically, and things started changing and taking shape.

First came Prashanthi Nilayam (the abode of Supreme Peace), where Baba personally resides and gives Darshan and discourses to His devotees. Then came the residential schools and the college, where hundreds of students study under the personal supervision of Bhagawan Baba. Later came the University, followed by Stadium, Planetarium, Museum, Super-Specialties Hospital, Airport, Drinking Water project and then the Cricket ground. All this within a span of fifty years in a tiny remote village, which has been turned into a modern full-fledged town with multistoried buildings, shops, restaurants and eating houses. Cars and autos freely move on the roads all around and T.V. and international dialing buzz with full activity.

ABOUT THE DEEMED UNIVERSITY

Professor Krishna Nandan Sinha writes in his book entitled 'Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Absolute Sole of Lord of Life and Death' as follows: "I was living at Prashanthi Nilayam the abode of peace. After my superannuation as Professor and Head of the English Department, Bihar University, I was one of the few fortunate ones who were asked to serve at the feet of the Lord. I was offered the most prestigious assignment as Professor and Chairman of the English faculty at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, a Deemed University founded by Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I landed at Prashanthi Nilayam in July, 1985 and took up my new assignment. It was indeed the most exciting and challenging assignment of my life. I had spent almost a life time in the constant pursuit of my calling, the noble profession of teaching at different Universities in Northern India and had also spent a couple of years at an American University, but never before had I experienced the thrill of total involvement with my work and the unique satisfaction of working for an ideal. The educational programme of the University shaped by the Lord Himself and implemented by Professor Vinayak Krishna Gokak, the founder Vice Chancellor of the Institute, seemed to me to be flawless and I soon discovered that work here was prayer involving duty, discipline, and devotion. The academic curriculum, the courses of study, the standard of research, all were of the highest order. The Institute was an elite institution rated highly by the Government of India and by the people. The teachers and the students were bound together by the common link that they were all ardent devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I felt radiantly happy to be given the opportunity to serve here and to become an instrument for the service of the Lord.

THE SUPER-SPECIALITIES HOSPITAL

In November, 1991, a Super-Specialties Hospital called Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS) was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India near Prashanthi Nilayam. This philanthropic hospital has all ultra modern facilities for diagnosis and treatment of all the Cardiac ailments (including open heart surgery) to all the deserving patients entirely free of cost including post-operative treatment and care. As of June, 1998 over a thousand two hundred heart operation have been successfully performed. Next to be introduced were Urology and Nephrology departments with kidney transplant facility, followed by ophthalmology and Dental wings.

THE DRINKING WATER PROJECT

This is what appeared in the Times of India, Bombay, on 24th November 1995:

Sai Baba gives Birthday gift to Andhra villages by Pushpa Iyengar, the Times of India News Service, Puttaparthi, (Anantapur District), November 23.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba today celebrated His 70th birthday by dedicating a project to supply drinking water to 700 villages in this drought-prone district.

The colorful show put on by thousands of His devotees at the Shanthi Vedika Stadium was watched by galaxy of prominent personalities led by President Shankar Dayal Sharma, who inaugurated the Sri Sathya Sai Water Project.

Sai Baba clad in a white robe, during His hour long speech in Telugu expressed satisfaction over the swift progress made in the Rupees 200 crores project (for which work began in February this year), but said that it was His desire to see Rayalaseema (land of stones) transform back to Ratnalaseema (land of gems).

He exhorted His devotees, who had come from 137 countries, to work towards uplifting the lives of the people by solving basic problems like drinking water and health care.

Some devotees, who came bearing garlands of gold as well as gold crown weighing a total of 13 kg, appeared not to have pleased the God-man. The devotees, some Italians and NRIs were asked: “what are jewels for God?” Sai Baba then announced that the gold would be auctioned there and then and the proceeds used for the water project. At the end of the function it was announced that Ramanlal and Associates, based in Kobe, had bought the gold at twice its international market price.

The Baba also received other lavish donations, the most prominent being a \$ 30 million gift from U.S-based S.K. International and Charitable Foundation and the S.K. Educational and Medical Foundation.

The President who sought Sai Baba’s blessings by touching His feet on two occasions, said, “Service to humanity represents the essence of Baba’s unifying philosophy”. He said whenever individual and Organisations could pool together their intellectual and material resources and address specific problems, they must be encouraged to do so.

Earlier Mr. Sharma touched a silver coin kept in a silver vessel which set off the pump set at the Chitravathi balancing reservoir, 70 km away.

The celebrations over the last 10 days have seen the presence of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, Union Ministers S.B. Chavan and Manmohan Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil, VHP Leader Ashok Singhal and BJP Leader Murli Manohar Joshi.

THE HILL VIEW STADIUM

In the month of November 1997, came another glorious gift from Baba, to the villagers of Puttaparthi, world’s most wonderful stadium, with a beautiful cricket pitch, a lush green ground, enveloped by hilly and spiritual surroundings.

The first International one-day cricket match for the Sri Sathya Sai Unity Cup took place at this Hill View stadium, on 30th December 1997, between India XI v/s the Rest of the World XI. The match was witnessed by thousands of devotees, in the Divine presence of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Shri I.K. Gujaral, the then Prime Minister of India, and many more eminent personalities. India won the match played in a festive albeit competitive spirit and its captain Tendulkar was presented with the Unity Cup, made of pure gold, weighing 6 kg, by Bhagawan Baba Himself. Baba also presented silver trophies to all the members of both the cricket teams. It was a sight to be seen and cherished.

Ms. Chandra Naidu wrote a small booklet entitled ‘A Sixer for the Lord, from Padmabhushan Col. C.K. Naidu’. Here is reproduced the foreword for the booklet by Sri Indulal Shah (International Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation)

Cricket is largely an urban sport and International Tournaments are played only in a few prominent stadiums in half-a-dozen cities in India. Perhaps this scenario will now change with the inauguration of a stadium at Prashanthi Nilayam and commencement of the Prashanthi Gold Cup Cricket Tournament on 30th December, 1997 by the grace and blessings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, cricket has now come to the countryside.

Bhagawan’s concern for people in rural India is well-known. This is exemplified in the unique educational and medical Institutions that He has set up in Prashanthi Nilayam. The Prashanthi Gold Cup International tournament will provide a rare opportunity to the rural populace. Equally, this will inspire and entertain the large student community at Prashanthi Nilayam.

Bhagawan loves cricket and cricketers adore and worship Him. For preparing Prashanthi stadium and inaugurating the International tournament, He drew unto Himself a host of celebrated cricketers like Sunil Gavaskar, Prasanna and Alvin Kallicharan. His love for the illustrious cricketer, Padmabhushan C.K. Naidu, is well-known and this love runs through the pages of this little book written by his daughter Chandra, who takes the reader to the glorious days of C.K. and his cricket with consummate devotion and skill.

Cricket calls for courage, concentration and above all great discipline which are also the essential requisites for a true spiritual life.

International Sathya Sai Organisation welcomes the visiting cricket teams to this divine Valley of Puttaparthi.

We now place this labour of love at His Lotus Feet.

Indulal Shah,
International Chairman
Prashanthi Nilayam
Date: 23/11/ 97

Ms. Chandra Naidu, daughter of C.K. Naidu, writes in her booklet, about the following incident, which Swami told her, in one of the recent interviews granted to her.

A SIXER FOR THE LORD

“Swami told me about the meeting with the parents in Madras. Father had requested Bhagawan to come and see him play and said he will hit a sixer in Swami’s direction. This incidence was related by my mother too. The next day Baba went to see father play. He had His car parked near the boundary line and watched the match. Baba said father was batting at that time and noticed the arrival of Baba and did exactly what he had told, he hit a sixer where Baba’s car was parked. While relating this incident Baba’s face glowed with a boyish excitement and His eyes sparkled with delight at the recollection of that sixer as any genuine cricket lover’s would: I was pleasantly surprised at Bhagawan’s interest and love of cricket. And so it was ‘cricket’ that brought our family close to Bhagawan. In that first meeting of my parents, Baba gave a small pendent to my father, a photo of His to my mother, which shows a ‘young’ Baba, which we still have in our Pooja room.

It is impossible and beyond any human power to have accomplished, all the above achievements in a tiny village of Puttaparthi. Only, one who is embodied with Divine powers can accomplish this. Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has these Divine powers, and He has proved it, by achieving all these things.

KARMA THEORY

What is Karma? Karma is an activity which all the human beings have to perform, until death releases them from this body prison. Man cannot live for a moment without doing Karma. Even while he is sleeping, the breathing process becomes his Karma. Karma is the cause of man’s bondage to the cycle of birth and death. The life has been given to man to sort out the consequences of the previous Karma deliberately done, in many past lives, as well as in present life. Man cannot be liberated, until and unless he has sorted out and neutralized all effects of past and present Karma, and bringing the Karmic balance to nil.

Many times Kriya (natural activity), is being considered as Karma. Kriya is a natural activity, which we perform in our day-to-day life, without thinking, questioning or seeking anybody’s advice. If you get a nature’s call, you would immediately run to the toilet, without thinking or consulting anybody. Every morning we get up, brush our teeth, take bath, wear clothes and go to work, or go to the garden, take some exercises, and do many more such acts. Such acts are known as Kriya. They do not bind us to the ‘Law of Karma’. Karma is the action or activity, deliberately done, with full knowledge and intention of the doer, and also in expectation of certain results in consequences thereof. This kind of Karma binds man to the causes and effects of the ‘Law of Karma’.

There are three types of Karmas. Instant Karma, which brings instant result. (Such as when you slap someone in the face and he slaps you back, or you offer a glass of water to someone and somebody else offers you a glass of water. They are action and reaction are instantly neutralized leaving no balance behind).

The Mass Karma (Natural calamities like a plane crash, train accidents, earthquake, floods or cyclone, etc.) and the Delayed Karma which baffles the human beings most because its consequence is not instant and immediate, but takes a much longer time to appear. The seed needing to be planted, the soil to get fertilized, and the tree to grow before its fruit can ripen. By the time this whole process gets over, the past actions are totally erased from the memory, and the person is confused when he gets the fruit of his past actions. But be very sure that whatever you shall sow, so you shall reap. The same theory applies to the ‘Law of Karma’.

When you sow a seed of Karma and whenever it yields the result and become the fruit, whether it is sweet or bitter, rest assured that you and you alone will have to eat it, whether you like it or not, and no one else will be able to eat it on your behalf, even if somebody volunteers to do so. Most of the people are under the mistaken impression that after doing one bad Karma and at the same time by doing another good Karma, they can mitigate the result of the bad Karma. If one does something bad to someone, he is sure to get it back, in the same manner, today or tomorrow, from that very person himself or by any other person. By the same token, if one does good to somebody, he is also going to benefit in a similar manner. Karma is not a bank account. You deposit Rs.5000/- today, withdraw Rs.3000/- and the balance is Rs.2000/-, so when you again deposit Rs.1000/-, it becomes Rs.3000/-. Karma theory is not adding and subtracting like a bank account. It is ‘tit for tat, blow for blow, and help for help’. It is same like Newton’s 3rd law, ‘Action and reaction are always equal and opposite’.

In Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna has clearly declared about the Karma theory. He cautions, “Do the action but do not keep the desire of any fruit”. He further asserts “Dedicate all the actions to Me”. Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba also preaches the same, but with a little difference. He says, “By doing any action, you may have a desire, but that desire should be to find God and to realise and know that you are God”. He further guides us by telling us that whatever work we are doing and in whatever capacity we are doing it, we should keep in mind, that it is an act of God, done for the sake of God, and dedicated to God, and whatever the results, are gladly acceptable to us. By feeling thus, we will not be bound by the cause and effect of the Karmic Law. Baba will take everything on Himself and set us free and help us to progress towards liberation.

Baba has given us two paths by which we can cleanse our mind and make it subtle and pure, so that we are able to understand, the simple way to liberation. Baba tells us to do Nama Smaran every day (singing the glory of the Lord) with pure and dedicated mind and to do Seva (service) to the poor and the needy, to the disabled and the crippled, to the sick and suffering, to the healthy and humble and to the good and the Godly people. This will illumine our mind, and we will be able to understand ourselves more clearly.

Baba says that man has unlimited potentialities to realise and know himself. In one of the recent discourses on Ugadi day, He said, “Embodiment of love: You can not find in the entire Cosmos any place or object in which God is not present. The divine is present on the mountains. The divine dwells in villages and cities. The Divine is Omnipresent.

Only those who recognise this truth can redeem their lives; they alone can achieve the goal of human existence. The powers of the Divine are limitless. Every living being in the world is governed by some limitations. Birds, beasts and insects are all taken care of by the Divine in respect of their essential needs like food and drink. Among all living beings, however, the life of human being is supreme as it is governed by morality and the good conduct. The Divine has placed some limitations on the physical powers of man but has set no limits to the mental powers. Man can achieve whatever he resolves to achieve. He can even realise God. This Divine power is only given to human beings.

Ignorant of his limitless divine potentialities, man suffers from various disabilities by considering himself as human being.

Man today is soaring in the sky as a bird and moving in the ocean like a fish. He has been able to land on the moon. But unfortunately he is not able to live like a true human being on earth. This is indeed a matter of shame.

Man can accomplish anything if he surrenders to God. When he submits himself to the Will of the Divine, there is no task he cannot accomplish.

Not realising the true nature of the Divine principle, man wastes his time on rituals and religious practices of various kinds. God cannot be realised through such practices. It is only by loving God and getting close to Him that one can realise one’s aspiration. Swami does not disapprove of Sadhana practices. They are good activities for using time sacredly. But without service to Godly persons, they are of no use for realising freedom from the cycle of mundane existence.

People aspire for liberation (Mukti). They have no idea what constitutes liberation. Man seeks liberation from the ills of the body, the senses, the mind, the intellect and the Anthakarana (internal motivator). All these are no doubt necessary. But liberation in the ultimate sense consists in liberation from the cycle of birth and death. This means that one should redeem one’s present life so that one is free from rebirth.

Men should pray to God for freedom from rebirth so that they will not have bodies which are bound to be afflicted with diseases. People have no clear idea of what Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha (the four goals) mean. They think that Moksha (liberation) is something which you attain after death. But, in fact, liberation can be attained here and now. Moksha means “Moha-Kshayam” the elimination of “Moha” (or attachment). People are not ready to give up attachment to wife, children, property etc., you have a duty to protect your family. But you must not be immersed in concerns about them. Realise that love is the most important quality in human life. It is not love for kith and kin that is precious. It is love for God that is more valuable”.

(Sanathana Sarathi, April, 1998)

KARMA AND GRACE

There are three types of Karma: Past, Present and Future. Present Karma must continue. It is like the carriage behind which is a trail of dust. If the carriage stops, the dust will settle on it. A doubt might be that the carriage cannot forever continue so as to be ahead of its dust. But the carriage need not always travel on a dusty road. It can get on the surface highway where there is no dust. The highway is equivalent to the Grace of God. There is a difference between the benefit of Grace and the benefit of the Bhakti, or devotion. A patient with pain is given a sedative which dulls the pain. But Grace is an operation that does entirely away with pain. Make no mistake; Grace does entirely away with Karma. It is like a medicine which is labeled, ‘good until 1968’. If used in 1973, the medicine is entirely ineffective. The body is the bottle, the karma in the body is the medicine, and God puts a date on the ‘medicine’; so it is not effective.

WHAT IS DEATH?

The word 'death' creates a fear psychosis, in the mind of human beings. You tell a person that such and such person has died; it will produce a wave of shock, in the mind of the listener. When death occurs in the family, it is announced in the papers 'SAD DEMISE'. According to Author's own understanding, he explains death as follows:

Death is re-union with God

Death is like changing clothes and wearing new clothes

Death is getting merged in God

Death is to achieve Eternity

Death is a realisation, that one is not the body, but the Atma (soul).

Death is attaining a Blissful state (Sat-Chit-Ananda)

Death is to break all the ties that bind, and be permanently released

Death is the only certainty

Death is understanding and experiencing the difference between the transient and the permanent

Anybody and everybody, who is born in this world, in any form, has to meet with death sooner or later. Hence, death should be accepted as boldly and cheerfully as we accept life. That will help us in eliminating the fear of death, which has held most of us so tightly in its grip that we can hardly breathe. In fact, any human being who has taken a birth in this world may not be re-born again, if he attains Moksha (Liberation) in this present life. But on the other hand, each and every human being, who is born in this world, is bound to die. So death is the only certainty.

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, has taken this human form, to explain to the people and make them understand the secret of life and death, by proclaiming that each and every human being, irrespective of any caste, creed or colour, is the Atma (the Eternal soul) and not the body, He further explains that the Atma does not die. It is the body which decays, and is declared dead, when the Atma leaves it. The Atma is neither born, nor does it die, it ever remains. On the other hand, the body which is changeable perishes and dies. Anything which is changeable is not real. Anything which is permanent is the truth. The Atma is permanent and eternal.

Baba further explains the reason, why a person is reborn and the Atma in his present body takes a new body. He says that Karma and desire are the cause of the rebirth of man. The Atma takes a new body for the sake of unfulfilled desires and in order to sort out the balance of one's Karmic effects or the deeds done in many previous lives. Until and unless man has sorted out all his Karmic effects, he cannot be liberated and be free from the cycle of birth and death. Baba says, "Man - Desire = God". Baba teaches us in many ways, how to control our desires and be desireless. He says, "The only desire one should have, is the desire to know himself - that is who am I? Where have I come from? Where have I to go? This will give one the self-realisation".

Baba says that mind is the cause of all the desires, and the cause of the downfall of man. If one can learn the art of controlling the mind properly, rather than taming the mind, one has won half the battle. Unfulfilled desires give rise to anger, and anger boosts the ego in man, and then man loses himself. Many times, Baba calls the mind as 'monkey-mind'. Baba says, "If you can make your mind a die-mind, you can also shine like a diamond. He even gives a therapy, how to make your mind a die-mind. He says, "If a person is really dead, does it bother him, if he is being garlanded, or is being beaten by chappals (Foot wear). He is not affected either way. Similarly, while you are alive, let your mind not get agitated or disturbed under any circumstances. Be calm and serene. Act like a 'sooka Patta' (a dried leaf), which is being pushed this way or that way with every movement of the wind. This will enable you to be the master of your mind and the mind will stop dictating to you, instead it will start obeying you". Baba says, "Man's ego, desires, attachments and sense perception to the worldly objects, are the cause of man's bondage to the cycle of birth and death".

A scientist created a scientific luxurious cage, with all the modern amenities, and put a number of mice, male and female inside the cage, but deliberately kept the door of the cage open. He also installed, two electrical gadgets, one of red colour and the other of green. The mice while playing, if they touched the green colour gadget, they got a piece of cheese, and if they touched the red gadget, they got a shock. The mice were very happy in the cage, dancing and playing and making merry, sometimes getting the cheese and other times getting the shock. Surprisingly in spite the door of the cage being open, none of the mice would attempt to get out of the cage, to freedom!

The same is the fate of we human beings. We are so engrossed in our day-to-day routine involvements, that we accept both happiness and misery, but would not like to get out of this body prison to free ourselves in spite of the

fact that Baba is here and He has kept the door open for us, to be liberated, yet we are clinging to our bodies, love life immensely and are afraid of death. How foolish of us!

Baba has given us two simple methods of getting Moksha (Liberation) in this age of Kaliyuga. He says that Nama Smaran (reciting the name of the Lord) and doing Seva (service) to the fellow beings (Manava Seva is Madhava Seva) will get us the required liberation, in this present life itself. Let us take advantage of Swami's assurance, and act as per His Will and Commandments and earn His Grace, to win our coveted goal, Moksha (Liberation) which is our sole purpose of being born as human beings.

WHAT IS SOUL (ATMA)?

Many people are perplexed when they try to fathom the meaning of the word 'Soul' or 'Atma'. They assure and presume the meaning, according to their own intellectual wave length and remain contended and satisfied.

According to the author's perception, the definition of the Soul or Atma is as follows:

Soul = Spiritually Oriented Universal Light

Atma = Automatic Timely Moving Aspect

In truth, the Atma is that supernatural power (The Inertia) created by God with His Sankalpa (Will and Command), which always was, still remains, and will always be present. The Atma never perishes, nor it ever dies. It always remains because it is the Truth. It is God.

Electricity is supplied from the power house to all the inanimate objects, all over the world, known as various gadgets, such as Ovens, Cookers, Refrigerators, Air-conditioners, Washing machines, Televisions, Theaters, Automobiles, Computers and many more such gadgets. Though the supply of the electricity is the same, yet the functions of each and every individual gadget are entirely different.

In a similar manner, the Atma is the supernatural power or the energy created by God and supplied by God, not only to all the human beings all over the world but even to the birds, bees, plants, inanimate objects, planets and to the entire Universe. Without this Atmic power or energy, the entire Cosmos will come to a standstill, just as in the case of electricity, when the supply is cut off, nothing functions and there is chaos and turmoil all over.

Now the difference between the electrical supply from the power house and the Atmic energy from the source of God is that the electricity is generated and produced through the human intellect and resources, and can also be destroyed through the human resources, like a sabotage operation or by waging a war. But the Atmic energy cannot be destroyed, unless it is withdrawn by God Himself as per His Will or Command. Because Atma is God.

Many people always quote and it is also firmly believed that, "Not even a leaf moves without the Will of God". This statement is also confirmed by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in His present human form. But people try to misinterpret the above statement and put the blame on God for everything they do whether good or the bad. God is only a witness to the circumstances. He is not the doer of all the actions committed by the human beings. The fact of the above statement is that the Atmic power which is God who resides in our hearts, prompts us through His energy to act this way or that way. Without that energy, we will not be able to perform any action but will be like a dead log. So, Atmic energy is the Will of God, and not the actions deliberately done by the human beings could be considered as the Will of God. This illusion is the cause of the greatest error on the part of the human beings. God is Love. God cannot hurt anybody or harm anyone. God is Caring, Consoling and Healer of the all the wounds. How can He ever be revengeful? It is a bad and vicious judgment on the part of the human beings to hold God responsible for all their deeds and actions.

The most oft-used question of all the human beings today is, "Why God created this Universe, with all the misery, agony, hatred and confusion?" The answer is, "God never Willed it this way. It is we human beings, who are the cause of all this turmoil in this beautiful creation of the Loving God, who is so Compassionate and Perfect".

As the story goes. God was all alone and He felt the urge of loving Himself. He could not do it single-handed. If one wants to express love or experience love, one needs at least two people. So God said, "Let Me become many". This He did in order to experience to love Himself. As per His Will He became many. Then He thought of the pleasure and comfort of so many people created by Him. So He created the entire Universe, with the intention to provide all the comforts and happiness to them, because everybody was Him and Love was the Source. He then implanted the secret knowledge in the mind of human beings, to enable them to come back to Him, as and when they so desired. Along with this true knowledge He also gave them a little of free will, to enable them to know and understand the purpose of their creation and ultimately to go back to the final source that is Him. The human beings used this little free will for their own benefit and physical comforts and got themselves so entangled in the graph, they themselves planted around them that they forgot the way back to their true home land and are wandering hither and thither aimlessly and are constantly blaming God for taking their memory away as they are not able to find the way to their true home land.

The Merciful God is now caught up, in His own plight of creating this wonderful Universe which has now become a vicious circle. He even cannot undo now what He has already Willed to do. But still out of His own Compassion, He has been kind and generous enough to take this human body as Sri Sathya Sai Baba and is doing His utmost to revive the memory of all the human beings after entire world and is personally guiding them and showing them the way to reach their true destinations, the aboard of Eternal Peace that is Bhagawan Baba Himself.

He says, "As you eat nourishing food to sustain your body and keep it healthy, so that you can enjoy life, you must also give proper food to your Soul (Atma) to remain fit and trim and that food for the Soul (Atma) is doing Namasmara (Singing the glory of the Lord through the Chanting of the Bhajans) every day. This will sustain your Soul (Atma) and keep it healthy". He further says that it is only through the healthy body and the purified Soul (Atma) that you can reach your destination - that is you can get Moksha (Liberation).

Let us all resolve today and put an effort to lead our lives and move to the path as shown by Bhagawan Baba, so that we all the individual Atmas can get merged with Paramatma (The Power House of all the Atmas).

I cannot refrain but to mention here a small story about the Love and Compassion of the Lord which I read somewhere, and cannot get it erased from my memory.

There was a man who always believed in God. Since the very young age, he trusted God, and was sure that God was all the time moving along with him walking, talking and guiding him all the time. When he became old, he tried to recollect all his past thoughts. He saw a vast forest and could always see the two pairs of footsteps imprinted on the sand of the forest; only to find out that at the end of his life, when he was passing through a desperate situation of his life, he could notice only one pair of footsteps on the sand. He then cried and prayed to God and said how He the all Merciful Lord can leave him alone when he needed Him the most. There came the reply from the God, "Oh, my dear precious child, when you see the one pair of footsteps on the sand they are my footsteps because during that period of time, you were so exhausted that I was carrying you in my lap". This consoled the man and tears came to his eyes.

Let us also learn to cry for the mercy of the Lord. We cry for so many things in life; whenever desires are not satisfied, or when something we want, we do not receive. But have we ever cried for the God Himself? Cry for the Love of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Tell Him that your eyes are yearning to see Him, and to have His Darshan. Cry out to Him that you cannot live without Him. And see the Miracle of all the Miracles to happen.

Amen!

ESSENCE OF SHRIMAD BHAGAVAD GITA

- * Why are you unnecessarily worrying? Whom do you fear? Who can kill you? Soul is not born, nor does it die.
- * What has happened has happened for the best, what is happening is happening for the best, what will happen will happen for the best. Do not brood over the past. Do not worry about the future. The present is on.
- * What have you lost that you are weeping? What have you brought, that you have lost? What was it that you made that has been destroyed? You brought not anything, what you have, you got from here. What was given, was given here. What you took, you took from this Universe. What you gave, you gave unto this Universe. You have come empty-handed and shall go empty-handed. What is your today was somebody else's in the past and will be somebody else's in the future. You think it is yours and are deeply engrossed in it. This attachment is the cause of all your sorrows.
- * Change is the law of life. What you call death is life itself. In a moment you are a millionaire, in the very next you are a poor man. Mine and yours; Small-Big; Ours-Theirs; Remove this from your mind, then everything is yours and you are everybody's.
- * This body is not yours, nor are you of this body. Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Ether comprise this body and into this shall it turn. But the Soul is Immortal, and then what are you?
- * Surrender unto the Lord, He is the Ultimate Support. He who experiences this is completely free from Fear, Worry and Despair.
- * Whatever you do, offer it unto Him. By this you shall forever experience Eternal Bliss.

AN APPEAL

My dear sisters, brothers, relatives, acquaintances and friends. If you have known me personally and in whatever capacity you have judged me, and if you have even a little confidence in me, please take my advice and go and have Darshan of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prashanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi. No matter what it costs you. Even if you have to walk, all the way to Puttaparthi, the Darshan would be worth the trouble.

You never know, how and when, His single glimpse, a casual look, a word directly spoken, a momentary touch or His granting you Pada Namaskar (touching His Lotus Feet), can bring a drastic change in your life and can lift you up from humanity to spirituality.

For earning His grace, all that you have to do, is create your faith in Him and develop the yearning to see Him and meet Him. This will enhance His speed and He will receive you quickly because He has already declared, "If you move one step towards Me, I will move ten steps towards you".

I wish that I was in such a position of authority, where I would have been able to give all of you my visiting card, to enable you to meet Baba personally, to experience Him and know Him. But this can *never* be done. He is Paramatma and we all are individual Atmas, and each individual Atma has a personal rapport with Him (Paramatma), and it is for Him to decide which individual Atma deserves to receive His grace quickly, depending upon the accumulated merits of that particular Atma in this present life, as well as many previous lives. But, rest assured, He loves each and every individual Atma, because all the individual Atmas (Jiva Atmas) are part of Him and He is the totality of the individual Atmas (The Paramatma), just as all the trees put together are known as a Forest.

So awake, arise and march, before it is too late to have His Darshan. He has also declared that soon the crowds at Prashanthi Nilayam will multiply manifold that His Darshan will be available only from a distant place. May be from the top of the hill and that too only His orange robe may be sighted. May be, soon, He may disappear to an unknown far away place. He is the living God, who can do what He wills or Commands.

THINK
IS ATMA THE SAME IN EACH ONE OF US?
IS EGO THE CAUSE OF MAN'S DESTRUCTION?
IS DESIRE THE CAUSE OF MAN'S REBIRTH?
IS ANGER DEADLIER THAN FIRE?
IS GREED THE CAUSE OF MAN'S BONDAGE?
IS ATTACHMENT THE CAUSE OF SORROW?
IS BODY SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND PERISHABLE?
IS LOVE THE ONLY WAY TO REALISE GOD?
IS MAN GOD HIMSELF?
THINK YES AND YOU WILL NOT THINK AGAIN

**YET IT IS THE BEGINNING OF THE AWARENESS OF EACH ONE OF US. SO
PLEASE BEWARE, AND BE AWARE, THAT LIFE IS FRAGILE, HANDLE IT WITH
PRAYER.**

OM SHANTHI SHANTHI SHANTHI

MORNING PRAYER

Oh Lord, I am born now from the womb of sleep. I am determined to carry out all tasks this day as an offering to Thee, ever present before my mind's eye. Make my words, thoughts and deeds sacred and pure. Let me not inflict pain on anyone and let no one inflict pain on me. Direct me, guide me this day.

EVENING PRAYER

Oh Lord, the tasks of this day, whose burden I placed on you, are over. It was you, who made me walk, talk, think and act. I therefore place on Thy Lotus Feet, all my words, thoughts and deeds. My task is done. Receive me. I am coming back to you.

CONCLUDED

Source: www.geocities.com/priyasai108/cd/cd.htm

Sent with Sai love by Sai brother M. Palaniswamy, 'saidevotees_worldnet'
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/saidevotees_worldnet/