



SAI PREMA VAHINI

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER GKS GROUP

Initiated by Sri Gopala Krishna Baba

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No. 3 – March 2003

DISCOURSE OF GOPALA KRISHNA SWAMI

5 January 2002

Birthday of Holy Mother, Sharada Devi

Embodiments of Love!

Today is the Anniversary of Sharada Ma. There is no birth, no death for the Avatar. Whenever there is birth of Shraddha (Faith), Devotion or Bhakti and all the good qualities, that is the day when Sharada Ma takes birth in the heart.

Sharada's feelings are like Saraswathi. In our hearts, in our minds, knowledge should be born. If there is no knowledge in people, they are known as mad. In this Universe, everyone is mad. Each one is suffering from madness. One day a devotee came to Ramakrishna Paramahansa and said, "Swami, this person is mad." Ramakrishna replied to him, "You are saying that this person is mad? Oh, in this world everyone is mad!" Some suffer from the madness of children; some suffer from the madness for marriage, some with wealth madness. Everybody is suffering from madness. All the people in this world are suffering from one madness or the other. But, until today, nobody is mad for the Lord! With this worldly madness, they are suffering and they also make others suffer. But the person who suffers from the madness of the Lord, he troubles nobody! So don't you think that suffering from the madness for the Lord, is good?"

There are some people here who are suffering from the madness of the Lord. So many people have gathered here. The people who are passing by will say that all these people here are suffering from the madness of the Lord. But there is no harm from anyone who has gathered here. This madness gives Bliss! The other madness gives sorrow! We must always pray to the

Lord, "Oh, my Lord! Let my mind always be fixed on You alone." This mind is the cause of everything. This mind is the cause of Bondage & Liberation.

In Karnataka, there used to be a saint called Baswarna. In one sentence, he said, "Lady is not the Maya, Wealth is not the Maya. It is the desire that is born in the mind, which is the Maya!" Desire in the mind, is the bondage. There are men who tell their wives "I have no Maya within me, I'm going to leave the house." The wives will usually ask their husbands, "Please get this for me from the market." He doesn't have enough money but he is

scared, because his wife goes on asking for various things. So he says, "I'm going to leave all this and go to the forest." Then the wife feels hurt and she thinks, I have married this person, but whenever I ask him for something, he tells me that he wants to go the forest. Have I done something wrong? A Sanyasi comes into the village and the villagers go and tell their sorrows to him. This lady goes to the Sanyasi and says, "Swami, whenever I ask my husband for anything, he always tells me that he wants to leave this Maya and go to the forest. He is not really going but he goes on threatening me. What should I do, Swami?" Then the Swami replies, "Oh, you don't worry, mother. The next time he says that, you reply, oh, you can go to the forest."

Two days after coming back from the Swami, the wife needed something from the market. So she asked her husband to go and fetch some groceries from the market. He says, "You are the Maya and you are troubling me! So I'm going to leave you and go to the forest!" The wife replies "Okay, whatever is written on my forehead, I will suffer, please go to the forest". There was another lady in the neighborhood who was watching all this. She went to her husband and asked him, "This next door neighbor's lady's husband always says, "I want to leave everything and go to the forest. What is the meaning of this?" He immediately says, "I will teach

Prema Swarupa Vahini

Embodiments of Love,

- ♥ Each and every person will have their own faith; each and everyone should respect that.
- ♥ Know the importance of your own faith and develop that, do not change your religion.
- ♥ Religion of humanity, everyone can follow his own path, all roads lead to the same goal, just as Onderdijk can be reached by water, land or air.
- ♥ An organisation should never become narrow-minded.
- ♥ Sai Baba is not the form but the principle! Jesus is not in the form but His principle is very much alive. Followers are dependent on Sai Baba's form not devotees. What will happen to the followers after Sai Baba's form is not there anymore? Many have faith; very few have faith and confidence. Develop this!

Sri Gopala Krishna

you what it means" and while saying this, he immediately leaves the house, without speaking even a single word. Likewise it is not enough to say, "I'm going to do Sadhana, I'm going to do Bhajans, I'm going to cultivate good qualities," and just keep talking about it. You must practice it! God is present everywhere. He is in our hearts. People say, "If God is in my heart, I will sit at home and pray to Him." He may be in your heart, and you can do everything at home, but there should be someone to guide you! If people gather in a big hall or Mandir and do bhajans together, it is known as Sankeertana. If an individual does the same thing with bhakti at his house, he is singing a song. What is the difference between the people who are doing Sankeertana and the person who is doing bhajans at home? This is known as Sarvatra Harinaam Sankeertana.

When all the people chant the name of the Lord loudly, "Oh, Narayana, Govinda, Mukunda!" it reaches the Lord. When Narayana listens to the crying of the people for the Lord, He descends. I'll give you a small example. There is a big company. In this big company, there is a fight between the owner and his workers, because the workers feel the need of a bonus or an increase in their salaries. Then the workers want to go and ask the proprietor that they want certain things. There is a Union for that. There is a leader in that Union. There are hundreds of people supporting that leader. The leader sits in the front. He says, "Oh, proprietor, we want this" and puts the demands forward. They will be shouting, "Zindabad, Murdabad" and such other slogans. When he hears the shouting the proprietor will come out. If the leader shouts alone, the proprietor will not come out, but if all the workers together shout the slogans, he will be forced to come out. Similarly is the difference of doing a bhajan at home and doing it together.

We continuously ask the Lord, "We want this and we want that." He is the proprietor for us. We are all the workers. He is the father. We are all his children. That is the reason, for the Sankeertana. Every month, the GKS members perform bhajans here and the people around are very fortunate for during this time, they get peace. If

Where do you get peace? Peace is in your heart!

we take sufficient money and go into the market, we can buy what we want, but if we take the same amount or even more money to the market and say that we want Satsang, nobody will be able to give you that! All the people go in search for Shanti in various directions. Where do you get peace? Peace is in your heart! The place that teaches you that peace is within you is this bhajan place. When there is some fire, ash is all over and when fire is covered with ash, one cannot see the fire. But when we blow, the ash is removed; the fire is visible and glows. For the peace in our hearts, Ashanti (unrest) is the ash. When we do the bhajans, with so much of vibrations, ashanti is removed and you get shanti. Then you all will feel the shanti or peace in your hearts.

Is anybody crying for the Lord in this world? No! If anybody sheds even one tear for the Lord, He comes down. We cry for various things. We cry for the mundane wealth. But no one is crying for the permanent

Lord, Narayana. Sabri used to do seva in Matanga Rishi's Ashram. She was very young of age and an orphan, not having anybody. In that Rishi's ashram, she used to do seva continuously. In time, Matanga Rishi reached the time to gain liberation and so he had to leave. The saint called Sabri and said, "My time has come. I'm going to Vaikuntha, the Heaven. Your time hasn't come yet. In Thretha Yuga, Rama will come and that is the time that you will be liberated. Till then, you have to continue your service." She waited for ages and ages and became very old. We don't have the patience that this Sabri had! Sabri waited for ages for Rama but now, the devotees cannot wait even for two or three hours. The moment you go to Puttparthi, you feel that Swami should grant you one interview immediately and do everything for you. Even those who go to Tirupathi utter "Oh, Venkanna, I have put so much donation in your Hundi, I want this work done immediately." There is no patience at all. All the time we need money, though He wants your bhakti and your patience. If you don't have it, how is it possible? We have Bhakti, we do bhajans, but we need the result immediately. God will definitely give; there is a time for everything.

Just now, somebody gets married. Tomorrow itself, they want a child. How can it be possible? There is a time for that also. Today we sow the seeds and tomorrow we need the fruits. Whoever waits with patience, he will get everything in his life. Otherwise, they will become patients. Between patience and patients... there is just a

The person, who doesn't have patience in his heart, will convert himself into a patient.

little difference. The person, who doesn't have patience in his heart, will convert himself into a patient. Then they have to go to the hospital. The person, who has patience, will reach the Lord. That is the reason I always say, "All of you should participate in the Satsang." The importance of Satsang is so great that even a person who has the worst of thoughts will get converted. There is an example for that.

One day, Narada goes to the Heavens. He asks, "Swami! How does one feel when he sees a Sat Purusha, the great person?" Then Narayana replied, "Narada, you do one thing. You go to the Earth, and in such and such place you will find cow-dung. There is a worm in that. Go there and ask this question to the worm which is living in that cow-dung. Narada feels, "What is this all about? Doesn't Narayana have any other work? What is there to talk to the worm? But Narayana has said it, so let me do it." So he goes to the Earth and finds the cow-dung and he finds the worm also. He asks the worm, "Oh, worm! What is the greatness of seeing a Saint?" The moment he asked the question, the worm died immediately! Narada feels sorry and says, "The moment I asked him the question, the worm died! I have committed a sin!" And he goes back to the Vaikuntha. There he meets Narayana and says, "Oh, Narayana, I asked the question, that You asked me to ask and the worm died." Narayan said, "Well, now you do another thing. Go down again. There is one Banyan tree there, which I will show you. There is a parrot living on the branch of that tree. Go and ask the same question to the parrot."

Narada comes down and finds the banyan tree, there he finds a small parrot on it. With a deep sense of fear, he asks the parrot which was just born, "What is the great effect of seeing a Sat Purusha?" Immediately, even the little parrot dies! "Oh, what troublesome things, I'm committing sins!" thinks Narada. Again he goes back to Vaikuntha. He tells Narayana, "Swami, what is this? Even the small, just born parrot has simply died! What is this, Swami? Narayana says, "You don't understand, Narada. This time you go down to a village. There is a small calf. Ask the same question to the calf."

He went down and saw that the cow had just given birth to a small calf. He asked the same question to the calf, "Oh, little calf! What is the effect of having darshan of a Sat Purusha?" Immediately, even the little calf falls down and dies! Narada feels very bad and thinks, "Oh, I have just killed a cow... Go-Hatya!" and he feels very scared. He goes back to Vaikuntha and tells Narayana, "Oh Swami! Oh Narayana! I have committed sins! Go-Hatya! What is this, Swami? What is happening?" Narayana says, "Don't worry Narada. Do not be afraid at all. You go down again. There is a beautiful country there. The king's wife there has just given birth to a child. Go there and ask the same question to the child." Narada answers, "Swami, wherever I went and whoever I asked this question, they all died! If I go and ask the question to the Emperor's child and the child dies, will the Emperor spare me, Swami? Swami, I will not go!" Narayana says, "Don't worry Narada, and please go! Just go and ask!"

With a deep sense of fear, Narada goes again for asking the same question. He went and stood there. Even then, he didn't ask the question. The child looked into his eyes and smiled. Then the child asked Narada, "Have you not recognized me?" Narada says, "No, I haven't recognized you." The child says, "Oh, I'm the same calf, Narada. I'm the same parrot. I'm the same worm living in the cow-dung. Just by having darshan of a great saint like you, I've got birth in a royal family."

That is the power of a Sat Purusha or a Saint. That is the reason why we visit temples, go to the ashrams and visit saints to have their darshan. That is the meaning behind this. That is known as Punyakshtra Sat Darshana.

In the ancient days, people used to go to Badri Kedarnath, Kashi and other places. Could they not sit in one place at home and pray? No, because in such great places, all Rishis, Munis, Saints, Sat Purushas used to

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live. By just looking at them, being with them, you get so much of peace. What do we do when the car battery goes down? Then we take the battery and get it charged and come back. Even the human body becomes weak. That is the reason why we go to saints. Then, He charges the inside. Even if you don't have any devotion, just go. He will charge. As Ramdas charged the batteries of Shivaji, Shivaji alone could go and fight the battle himself.

That is the reason why I say that Satsang is very important. My sincere request and desire to all of you

who are present here is that you must seek Satsang. All the people must come together, do Sankeertana and think of the Lord! Today is a very auspicious day. Let Sharada Devi be born in all your hearts. Let the Omkar be chanted in your hearts!

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**Swami Gopal Krishna Baba's discourse**  
**23 November 2002**

*Embodiments of Love and Soul.*

Today is the birthday of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.



The Lord has said in the Bhagavat Gita, "When unrighteousness or adharma begins to spread all over, at that time I take a decision to enter into the world and see to it that evil doers are punished severely and dharma is re-established."

In Holy India, Sriman Narayana has Himself taken a vow that He shall continue to appear endlessly in the forms of saints and gods, to meet the requirements of the time. Many people question, 'why is it that God appears only in India? To the Lord, all parts of the world are the same. There is no difference for Him. This so-called world that man perceives is after all an aspect of God's creation. In that Universal presentation of the Divine Form, our land India is at the top, it is at the head. If we say, an individual is all right, except that he is a little deranged in the head, how does it look? If all the organs are healthy and okay, but if the head is deranged, isn't that stupidity? It's not normal, but stupidity.

In the world India is compared to as the head of the world. If the head is deranged, it requires a treatment. In order to see that the head is okay, so that the rest of the organs are okay and that the rest of the world is okay, God has chosen India to do the necessary correction for the rest of the world through the operation in the brain, through the operation in India and that is the reason why God has chosen to come again and again in India. Many rishis, seers, visionaries, have been continuously coming up in this country. If India is okay, the rest of the world will be okay. If India is deranged, what happens to the rest of the world? We need not guess. When we say India, it is not a land of spiritual activity; but it is the heart of the rest of the world, from where the real energy vibrates, and gets released to other parts of the world. The Earth, the Land, the Water, the Environment of this place is such that God feels attracted to this environment.

You must have seen a poor man who hasn't got enough to eat and who has got many wants to be fulfilled but he will be sleeping peacefully in the shade of a tree. This is because the innate quality of this land. This is the land of Sacrifice. This is the land of affluence, to go best. There is richness, prosperity and it is full of resources. There is a plenty, but there is fear in the other parts of the world. Not outside but within each individually, there is a fear.

When I went to Holland, I saw so many things. It is like the land of Milk & Honey! Nanda Gokula (The place Krishna spent his youth) Beautiful cows, wherever you see it is green pasture, people are so polite, hospitable and civil. Everything is full! But again, within each breast, there is a beat oh ...I'm helpless, uncared for, I feel an orphan. They will tell you; Swami we have got everything but you know there is a fear inside us. Swami, we have got everything, but there is fear!

What is the greatness of India? We say God appears again and again. We have enough reason to be ashamed of ourselves What a shame it is to be always told that there is something wrong in the head! The head is deranged. We have got to learn a great many things from the westerners. There is punctuality and their sense of patriotism and duty for their country! We do not have a similar spirit in our own land and that is why we remain undeveloped and progress is retarded. If a man is to come up in life, he must be sincere in his words. He must be punctual and he must keep up the word. These three things aren't yet to be found with us. Unless we cultivate these qualities, our whole life is likely to go waste. If you are employed in a particular office, if you are working somewhere, you must be present at the appropriate moment.

Many a time we fulfil the regulation by its formality and ignore the spirit, just as we go to the office on right time, we put our signature there and vanish to the coffee bar. Swamiji has said that I (translator) have been doing like that, had I known that Swamiji would be watching I wouldn't have done like that. A very sad thing is that the rest of the world looks down on us with pity and a second level of sight. We are not committed to our word; our sense of patriotism is very brittle. Baba had divined it long ago and He wanted to correct us in these qualities. If a man is to be a man and come up, the first step is discipline, the next step duty. Then following the first two divine faiths will be the third quality. Therefore the first instruction we should give to ourselves is, we must be disciplined

The first thing that is taught in the Sathya Sai open university of the world is discipline. Next duty. Next, Divine faith. These are the things taught to every devotee. Even before he enters the gates of Brindavan or Puttparthi, he will notice, ladies on one side, gents on the other side. As soon as one enters these two premises you will watch volunteers applying themselves to the work that is allotted to them. Cleaning the premises, directing people from one side to another, giving appropriate instructions to people who come for the first time to these places and whatever work that is given to them. They do it with commitment and throw their body and soul into the work to be done.

"My life is my message." that is Sai Baba's life. Baba hasn't come to this world to merely remain here as a creature, He has come to this world to demonstrate to mankind. "Just observe the way I live and the moment

**"My life is my message." that is Sai Baba's life.**

you observe me you will know the necessary message that you can get from me". If India conducts itself properly, if it is working in the right fashion in every

directory the rest of the world will follow India and the world will be a much safer, harmonious place to live. The terrorism that you see in the world today....., the country that is responsible is Bharath (India)

You say Pakistan and associate it with terrorism. When did Pakistan come, it is a part of India. It was the former Punjab. At the other hand you have Bengal and Bangladesh and at the bottom you have Sri Lanka. All these are a part of our former India. Even in the center of India there is terrorism. The people, who dropped the bomb on the U.S. of America, are not Americans; they are Bharatiyas! Why did they do it? Because they have lost their head. It is full of egoism.

We always think of our dharma, our religion and we are quarrelling about ourselves. In order to dispel this division in this world, Sri Sathya Sai Baba has emerged as the one God, one unity for the whole world. The Hindus may call him RAM, the Muslims RAHIM, the

**....Sri Sathya Sai Baba has emerged as the ONE God, one unity for the whole world.**

Zoroastrians their FIRE GOD... and each religion has its own referees but all these are incorporated in the life and message of Sathya Sai Baba. This Swami has appeared into this world to remove the demolish forces the satanical forces in us and make us really divine. Just as a train runs on a track correctly only when the engine works properly and will also reach the destination. But if the engine itself doesn't operate where is movement? Therefore, our land is the shanti bhoomi, tapa bhoomi, tyaga bhoomi, karma bhoomi and yoga boomi.

You are blessed to be born in this sacred land. Remember the heritage behind you and move forward in Life ... that is Swami's birthday message!

**There is only one God and He is omnipresent.**

By Srimati C.N.Padma

Om Sri Sathya Sai  
My koti koti pranams to Your lotus feet.  
Om Sri Sai Gopala Krishna Baba  
My koti koti pranams to Your puja (sacred) feet.

First I will introduce myself to my sisters and brothers of my (our) Sai Family. I had soubhagya (the good fortune) of having darshan (being in the presence of a holy person) of Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Puttparthi on April 1944. I just had entered the first year of High School.

A group of my relatives came to Puttparthi to have Baba's darshan. At that time Sai Baba was maybe 16 years. Sai Baba stayed then in Srimathi Subbamma's house. In those days devotees had just begun constructing the old Mandir. We left Bangalore at about 9 A.M. in the morning, reached Penukonda and went from there to Bukhatpatna by bus, then by cart to Puttparthi which we would reach at 5 P.M.

A small and smart good-looking boy was standing before the door of Subbamma's house. He was wearing a white dhoti and a half sleeve shirt and he had a small white

cap on His head. He was smiling and invited us to go inside the house. After the formalities Baba spoke to our elders, all the time with a smile on His face. We stayed for eight days and took Baba's permission to leave. We left Puttaparthi with a heavy heart and even Sri Sai had tears in His eyes. This is my first experience with Sai Baba that I have placed before you.

Many years passed and I became a graduate and secured a government job in Davanagere (Karnataka state) I took government order and went to Puttaparthi and placed the order on Swamiji's feet. By then Mr. N. Kasturi and his wife also were there. The next day Sathya Sai Baba called Mr. Kasturi and his wife upstairs in the new Mandir and asked them to sit down.

Sai Baba called me also by my name (Padma). At that time I was cleaning Swamiji's room along with Srimathi Sharadamma, the daughter of Sri Seshagiri Rao, the oldest devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I came running, Sai Baba asked me to sit by His side. Sai Baba introduced me to Sri N. Kasturi and his wife and told Kasturi that my name is Padma like his own daughters name, which is also Padma. He said; "This devotee of mine has got a new government job appointment in Davanagere where you are working. She is very young to stay alone there. I want to give this girl as a daughter to you, will you adopt her and consider her as your own daughter?" Mr. Kasturi and his wife were happy and Mr. Kasturi said, "Swamiji, whatever You give, I will take with pleasure." Then Sai Baba took my hand and placed it in Kasturi and Amma's hands. From that day on Mr. Kasturi and his whole family treat me as one of their family members. Sri Sathya Sai Baba also performed my marriage and created my Mangala Sutra. Mr. Kasturi and Amma stood on the pitam (kind of podium) as my parents for Kanyadana (giving away the girl).

**All the photos were full with vibhuthi and it was falling from them.**

Once I saw a friend of mine getting down from the bus. I asked her from where she had come. She told me that she had been for Sri Sai Bhajan to Girinagar, and also told me about Gopal Krishna Swamiji. I requested her to take me once to Girinagar for bhajans. The next Thursday she phoned me, came to my house and both of us went to Girinagar.

A thin and tall, fair, good looking man with a smiling face invited us into the bhajan hall. My friend introduced me to Gopalanna (Brother Gopal). Bhajan started, Sri Gopalanna sat in a small room where one Shirdi Baba statue and four Parthi Baba photos were kept. All the photos were full with vibhuthi and it was falling from them. They had kept one plate below them to collect the vibhuthi.

After the bhajans Gopala Krishna Baba talked to me and expressed that He was glad to see the adopted daughter of Mr. N. Kasturi, and blessed me. At that time the Mandir was very small and a big bhajan hall was under construction. I saw the Shiva lingam, which was created by Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Baba actually had appeared before Gopalanna in that small room and Anna had been shivering it seems. Sai Baba placed the lingam in Anna's hand and asked Him to perform Puja (holy ritual)

every Monday. Many bhakta's who attended the bhajans have been benefited by it and have overcome their difficulties. The holy water and vibhuthi have given solace to bhakta's.

I had some family problems and Sri Sathya Sai had come to Brindavan (Whitefield) Ashram. I went to have Sai Baba's darshan. I prayed to Baba and waited for His darshan. Baba slowly came but did not even look at me. It was April 1996. I went twice but experienced the same disappointment both times. The third time I was able to get Sai Baba's attention. I said, 'Swamiji, I am in a lot of troubles, kindly give me an interview.' Sri Sai was kind enough to give me an interview. Sri Sai consoled me and blessed me. Then I told Baba, 'Swami, whenever I find time I go to Girinagar Ashram for bhajans, as it is near to me.' Sai Baba immediately said 'very good, continue going, my sannidhi is there (meaning that the place is His). I went there the very next day and told Gopalanna regarding the same. I told many of my friends what Sai Baba had said about Girinagar Ashram. After this incident three or four years later, I thought of going for Baba's Birthday celebrations to Parthi.

Again family problems prevented me to go. I felt very much disappointed and prayed to Bhagawan Baba. That same night Sai Baba came in my dream and said, "My birthday is on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Gopala's birthday is on 6<sup>th</sup> November". He laughed and disappeared. Then I thought, why has Gopalanna never told me that in all these days? The next evening I went to the Girinagar Ashram, gave my best wishes to Gopalanna, did namaskaram (touching the feet) and gave Him a small token. Gopalanna asked me how I came to know about it. I told Him about my dream. Those who were present there also felt very happy.

Regarding my family troubles Sri Sathya Sai said everything would be all right. I needed not to worry. I told Anna the same thing and again explained my problems. I requested Anna to pray for an early remedy. Gopalanna said that He would pray for me, blessed me and consoled me. His mother also consoled me and treated me so kindly. After some time I went to Anna with a cheerful face, Anna knew it but still asked me what had happened. I told Him that by His prayers and blessings everything vanished like a cloud would clear.

Now I am happy. I have seen and heard many Bhakta's telling that due to Gopala Baba's blessings they are all right and have overcome their difficulties.

May all the bhakta's benefit by the blessings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Gopala Baba.

If any Sai devotees feel like knowing about the early life of Sri Sathya Sai Baba they can ask the minute details and I will give you them to my best of ability.



## FAITH OF A SMALL BEAUTIFULL CHILD

By: Stef and Saskia Rood

May the 6<sup>th</sup> of 1994 our daughter Ankie was born. A happy event; your family blessed with a small beautiful child!

**A happy event; your family blessed with a small beautiful child!**

The happy baby period rapidly collapsed into misery when after three months a disease slowly but steadily revealed itself at Ankie. She developed epilepsy. In the beginning only minor but rapidly it became very serious, our small beautiful child was gone. She had to endure heavy insults and slowly she lost contact with the world outside of her, she became autistic. The journey for the right physicians and hospitals began. We looked everywhere for a solution for her problems. Long nights we searched in all the medical books we could find, discussed therapy forms; nowhere an answer, nowhere a remedy; it seemed a 'hopeless case'. Our path of life became difficult with not much compassion from the people around us, sleepless nights, exhausting days. It felt like we entered a vacuum and all the ground was swept from under our feet, our future looked like a dark, black hole.

But then came the turning point. We realized that we had a choice, a choice to let our heads hang down and struggle through the rest of our days or chose to accept this problem for a fact and try to find the positive effects in this course of events. The choice was quickly made. In our search to the positive sides Sathya Sai Baba came on our path (of course He was already there but we didn't realize this at that time). It began with a photo of Sai Baba; we were totally mesmerized by it. Who was that man? What is it He wants to tell us?

We lost ourselves in the teachings of Sai Baba and from that time on we were hooked to Him. Such clearness, those answers, such an inspiration!! All the questions, all the doubts, all the troubles in our life fell into place; Ankie was integrated in our life. Slowly we began to understand why Ankie was born in our family, why she was ill and why we had such a hard time with it. All the pieces fell into place. And more then that, not only we started to understand problems in general but we also welcomed them! This may sound strange but we experience every bump in the road as a challenge, a gift to grow, to grow in faith and love.

By placing Ankie into our family Sri Sathya Sai Baba teaches us to have faith and teaches us to let go of our troubles so that we can be free to move on and to grow on. So Ankie is a fantastic gift, a beautiful inspiring way of life, a small beautiful child of humanity! She shows us what faith means; to give yourself completely to what is good for you, no matter how difficult it sometimes seems, and to be convinced that everything that comes on your path has a purpose, a higher purpose. Sometimes you don't see it, you wonder why it is happening to you but when you open up it will be clear. It is such enrichment that you are allowed to learn from it, such a huge enrichment!

July 2001 we were blessed to meet Swami Gopala Krishna during His visit to Holland. His presence had a tremendous impact on us. His love, His words, His eyes, His voice, His total being, confirmed that we were really blessed with Divine energy in and around us. From that

**.....His total being, confirmed that we were really blessed with Divine energy in and around us.**

moment Swami Gopala Krishna is also our teacher, our inspirer, our loving Mother who embraces us. Ankie is doing fine now. She is a joyful girl, no more epileptic insults and is crawling back slowly from her autistic world. She becomes more self-confident, begins to trust the world around her. She learns to let go of her problems and to surrender. Wonderful! She is a blessed child. Together with her three sisters we are walking hand-in-hand our path of life with full faith in whatever will come and with complete confidence that it will be right!

Our beautiful small children.

Sai Ram, Stef and Saskia.

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Om Sri Satchidananda Sadguru Sainathaya Namaha

By: Devudu Sadashivu

It is a tradition with us, that whenever we start any divinely activity, we first invoke the grace of Guru, with the sloka,

*Guru Brahma Guru Vishnu Guru devo Maheshwaraha
Guru Sakshath para Brahma Tasmhi Shri Guraven
Namaha*

Which means: Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Guru is Maheswaraha, Guru is verily the Parabrahma. To that Guru I bow down. Who is this Guru, whom we accept

Who is this Guru, whom we accept and respect as everything.....

and respect as everything, place him on the highest pedestal, even higher than the one we have for God, whom we consider as Omnipotent, Omni present and all pervasive? Why do we give Him such a high regard? What is His speciality?

Erstwhile Poojya Sri Sri Chandrasekhara Bharathi swamiji of Sri Sringeri Peetha was once asked by one of his devotees; "Swamiji, while we perform our daily rituals we have to visualize different deities at different times. This is not an easy job. Is there not one form, one specific form, which we can picture in our mind at all times?" Swamiji quoted the above and asked the devotee; "you chant this everyday as you said, but have you really understood this and believe this is true? If so, instead of trying to recall the different deities in different forms at different times, you can visualize that form that you have accepted as Guru and carry on your daily routines. We believe that everything and everyone is God. Hence Guru is God. Do you agree?"

Guru generally means one who clears the 'Andhakara' (darkness) in us. What is this darkness? Is it something like; what we experience when the sun goes down or a

light is put off? No, it is the darkness inside us, the Agnyana (ignorance) in us. What is this ignorance? It is that thought or presumption which is engulfing us: "This body, made out of five elements, is the real 'I' and protecting and preserving this body is our primary duty in this world. This ignorance should be removed and the knowledge of what is the real 'I' should be installed. Who can do this? He is the Guru. He is the one who can remove the ignorance in us and gradually lead us in the path of knowledge, to know the reality. He is the one who can remove the darkness in us like the sun removes the darkness of night to install the light of day. Can anyone, who can theoretically show the path of light, become a Guru? No. Only He, who himself has realized that 'Truth' can guide us in the correct path. Light can be lit only by another light. Otherwise it is like one blind man leading another blind man.

Where can we find such an enlightened person? How should we go about in our search? It is said in our holy scriptures that when a 'Mumukshu' (seeker) of truth, gains 'Arhata', becomes worthy (by his steadfastness in pursuing his goal), a Guru will come in search of him. This means that one should attain 'Arhata' become worthy. How does one achieve that? The very first step

Where can we find such an enlightened person?

is to follow all the rituals that are prescribed in our scriptures, regularly, religiously, without fail, with complete faith and with Trikarana shuddhi pure in mind (thoughts), words and body (actions). This discipline should be a continuous one, with unwavering faith and patience till it becomes a part of life. Then and then only, at the appropriate time, i.e., when the person has reached the state of worthiness, the Guru will appear before him. Without such discipline, it is well nigh impossible to get the blessings of the Guru. It will be like the affluent man who came to Sri Sai Baba, to 'buy' Brahmagyana!

The Guru has been found. Is that the end of search? No. It is now time to prove that the 'Arhata', one has achieved in getting a Guru genuine by engaging in the service of the Guru. How should one go about serving the Guru? There is an exemplary explanation rendered by Sai Baba to one of his devotees who was proud that he had studied Bhagavad Gita in depth and knows the ins and outs of it. One of its slogans runs like this:

*Tadvidhi pranipathena pariprashnena sevaya
Upadekshyanthi te gnanam gnanenah tatvadarshinaha*

The general meaning of this sloka is; by prostration, by questioning and by service to Guru, one will be taught that knowledge that is to be known by the known (Guru). Is it enough if one prostrates, questions and serves the Guru in a normal way (as we do daily)? No! Sai Baba says: "Prostration means; Prostrate at the feet of the Guru with the confirmed feeling, that this body, mind and everything that is associated with me is surrendered at the (Guru's) feet. There is nothing, which can be called 'mine'. All is His, belongs to Him, the Guru." Questioning does not mean testing the knowledge of the Guru, but a submission that I am ignorant and seeking knowledge from him and hence ask these questions. Submission with humility to learn the truth. Not to show off oneself.

Service means; that every action of mine is meant to carry out the orders of the Guru. Service done with the utmost feeling that the very existence is for the Guru, to be used by the Guru, as he wants. There is nothing, which is 'mine'; everything should be done without ego. It is like a ladle being used by a chef (the ladle has no individuality) it submits to the chef to be used by him, as he wants. When one engages himself in the service of the Guru, then and then only, at an appropriate time, the Guru condescends to bless the one who has become worthy of receiving his blessings. Speaking about service to the Guru, Sai Baba himself narrates: "Once I found my Guru, I realized that I did not want anything else in the world. I was not aware of my needs like food and water. I wanted to be in his presence all the time every moment of my life, for any reason. If my Guru was out of sight even for a moment, I felt like having lost my all."

How does one feel when he has received such blessings? It is an unexplainable, unique, individual experience. It is the supreme Bliss-Paramananda. This is unexplainable because the feeling cannot be put into words. Each has his own way of experiencing this Bliss. It is similar to asking a person who has tasted sugar "How is the sweetness?" The sweetness in sugar cannot be explained in words. One has to eat sugar to experience the sweetness! It is only the Guru, who himself in the past had experienced it, that can impart such an experience. Nobody else can do that. If one is lucky enough to find a Guru like that, how does the Guru teach him? Like a teacher in a classroom? No. His teaching is by his own actions, adding only now and then any words needed to add strength to the action. Maybe he takes recourse to teaching the real 'Mumukshu' by even silence! One mind is speaking to the other in silence.

Our scriptures proclaim: Gurostu mounavyakhya shishyosttu chinna samshayaha! By his silent talk the Guru clears all the doubts of the shishya (student). My father, who was an ardent devotee of Erstwhile Poojya Sri Sri Chandrasekhara Bharathi swamiji of Sringeri, once told me; "During writing critical points of shastras, whenever I had a doubt about something, I would stop writing and go to in Dhyana (meditation) of my Guru. By the time the Dhyana was over I would come out with all my doubts cleared and would start writing again without further interruptions" This brings another dimension to the Guru's teaching, apart from silent teaching there is no restriction in place or time to get the guidance from the Guru to a true shishya. Each may be in different locations, but an 'Arha' shishya will not be let down by his Guru. We read many such instances in Sai Satcharita.

It is a 'Tapas' (spiritual exercise), Guruseva (service to the Guru) is a Tapas. Is there any time limit for the 'Guruseva' one should be engaged in? No. There is no such limit. Depending on the Arhata of the shishya. The Guru blesses him at the appropriate time. But how should one know he is blessed? Sai Baba said to one of his devotees who questioned him thus; "you will know that when you can live like me, renouncing everything and engaged all times without any interruptions in chanting the glory of HIM, always living your life only for the sake of others, doing good by body, mind and (soul)

action to all others. "Can one change his Guru if one is not satisfied with the present Guru? Can one leave his present Guru and see another? It is like digging a pit to find water and not getting water, then stop the first one

"Can one change his Guru if one is not satisfied with the present Guru? Can one leave his present Guru and see another?"

and dig another one. After digging several pits, complain that no water was found. But, if one was to dig at one place deep enough, one does find water. How deep one should dig? That depends on the faith and patience of the digger. One must continue till water is found. Likewise one should continue one's service with one Guru, till the proper time, when the Guru himself will bless him. Only the Guru knows when the appropriate time has come! Sai Baba says that he was in the service of his Guru for 12 years.

But some are lucky to be blessed after a short time. Yet such persons have continued from many previous janmas (births) such a service, faithfully and with patience. Only the Guru is aware of such past services, even though the shishya is not aware of that. In Sai Satcharita, Sai Baba many times has said so to his close devotees: "You were all with me in many former lives and so I have brought you together to be with me." One has to wait patiently with faith in the Guru. The author of Sai Satcharita, Sri Hemadpant, narrates his own experience, that on one occasion he felt that even though he had served with diligence his Guru, he had not received any blessing while another got such blessings in a very short while. Sai Baba teaches Hemadpant, the lesson of faith and patience through a parable, narrated to Hemadpant by another devotee.

Sai Baba always taught - Shradha and Saburi – Faith and Patience. The Guru is everything. Each word coming out of his mouth is like a pearl. It is an order for an ardent devotee to follow him faithfully. Shedding our Ahankara (ego) completely we should follow him, in the path he has shown. He is love personified. He will not allow us to stray in the wrong path. The responsibility is on us to prove that we are worthy of his love and blessings. He is the one who gives us the ultimate Ananda here and hereafter.

In the past Sai Baba of Shirdi thus guided the people with his unreserved love. Fortunately today we have such a Baba, amidst us, spreading his love to one and all that come to him from far and near, Poojya Sri Sai Gopala Krishna Baba Guru, lovingly named Girinagar Baba, is Love personified in his form leading us in the path of light. Loving all of us. Without any reservations, come all. Let us faithfully follow him with body, mind, soul and action, and prove to him that we are worthy of his faith in us. By doing so, he will lead us out of this 'Bhava Sagara' (world of materialism) and make our life's worthy and blessed.

Om Shantihi, shantihi, shantihi.
Sri Satchidananda Sadguru Sainathaya Namaha,
Sri Satchidananda Sadguru Sainatha Prasada
Siddhirastu.

Communication

By: Sita

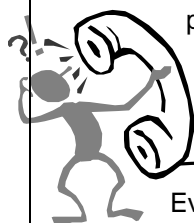


Living at a great physical distance from my Gopalama, and having such a strong longing to communicate with Her, I prayed to Swamiji to teach me something about communication. The following words were given to me and they console me whenever I feel far away from Her. It is my prayer that these words will give the same happiness to my GKS sisters and brothers.

All life on this planet forms a community. Every little part of this community can live happily according to its dharma when it is able to communicate with life around him. All life is connected and as soon as it separates itself from the community, misery will follow. So communication is important to continue life. In nature we

We want to tell our fellow beings, this is who I am.

see that there are many ways to communicate. The flowers communicate through fragrance and attractive colours. In this way they invite insects to visit them and so their life will be continued. Even in the animal world we see this kind of communication. Animals use sounds also to communicate. Human beings use it all. We use perfumes to attract, use the kind of clothes we wear to convey a message to the outside world. The clothes show the way we want to be seen. We want to tell the people around us, 'this is who I am'.



Even without words we speak through our behaviour and the way we dress. And then on top of this we human beings have developed this wonderful tool of speech. We can speak and not only that, we can put our words on paper, preserve them, and share them with many in the wonderful gift of writing! When we have so many tools than how is it possible that still so many people are miserable? Is there something missing in the way we communicate? When all life on the planet shows us that communication is of main importance it might be worthwhile to have a closer look at this.

Let's take our GKS family as an example; it's a small community, a family with a lot of different members, different in colour, religious and cultural background and from all levels of society. However, we have one thing in common, that is our love and devotion for our divine Mother, our dearest Guru, swami Gopala Krishna Baba. Every family member will have his specific needs and desires. How can I know what my brother or sister wants or what is more important what he or she really needs? It is only when we tell each other about our needs and desires that they can learn about it. Maybe you think: 'but I told them many times and nobody seems to hear me'. You are tempted to blame someone else. Remember, the way you see the world around you is only a reflection of you! When you feel and experience that nobody listens to you, you are not listening your self. You may say that you are ready to ease the pains and worries of other people but don't make the mistake

that you solve your own problems by diving deep into the worries of someone else. First look closely at your own needs and start to create ways to fulfil them.

Learn to make the difference between needs and desires. There is a big difference between these two. Your needs are like food, you cannot live without them. Desires should only be there in the form of wishes, it could be nice if they come true but it is not really important for your happiness. Soon you will find out that there is one thing you need most of all, Love. Love was

Learn to make the difference between needs and desires.

the first thing you were searching for when you came into this world and you kept on searching all the time. So many times, so many lives you believed that you were not good enough to receive this Love; so many times you blamed others because you were not able to loose yourself in being loved. For it makes you so vulnerable, this precious love is painful to loose. Your mind tells you that it is much safer when you can survive without. For life without Love is only surviving it is not living the way God wants you to live, full of happiness. You try to find joy in your desires rather by taking the risk of being a victim of Love. Are you listening? Do you hear the cry of your own heart? When you are not ready to fulfil this most basic need to be open and vulnerable, when you are not able to listen to and understand your own heart how can you ever dream of understanding the hearts of others? How can you hear what they say? How will you ever be able to feel their pain when you keep your own pain hidden deep inside? When we see a suffering animal, do we hear its cry for help? When we see the violence in the way we exhaust the treasures of our Mother Earth, the way we treat her who nourishes us, do we feel her pain? Do we listen and when we listen do we really hear? We neglect our own pains and with that we neglect the pain of all and everything around us.

We all want to communicate with our beloved Mother, but is She not present in all and everything around us, and most of all, in our own hearts? When the Native Americans wanted an answer from the Supreme Spirit, they asked their question and went into the forest, they strongly believed that God was present in all creation. They heard His answer in every singing bird and saw His directions in every animal that crossed their path or leave that fell in front of their feet. Even so we do this when we have a question in our heart and enter the Mandir in Girinagar. We see our beloved Swamiji

Now let us open our hearts, ears and eyes and realize through His Grace that the whole world is His Mandir.

performing some action or another, or we hear Him speak certain words to a person and suddenly we realize that He is answering our own question. Is it only because we want to be receptive in the holy atmosphere of His Mandir that we can understand His answers? Now let us open our hearts, ears and eyes and realize through His Grace that the whole world is His Mandir. He is always ready to answer our questions but are we ready to receive His answers. Are we ready to accept that He is always near, the Dweller of our heart? When

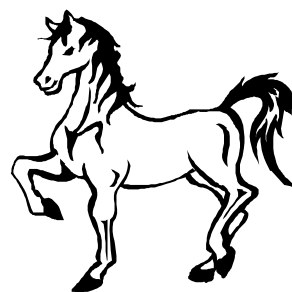
you compare your soul with the dweller of a house with many windows, you can imagine that the things you are not yet able to see or understand are like windows, covered by curtains. As soon as a question arises from your heart, it is as if you suddenly become aware of the fact that the window is covered. Asking the question is like opening the curtain. What follows is that Light has to come in, it cannot stay out and it has to enter your house. You can close your eyes or try to avoid the light, but it will enter your house. When more light enters, you become aware of more curtain-covered windows and you will also find the courage to open them one by one.

Bhagawan Baba says: There is only one language, the language of the heart.

Let us listen carefully to the language of our heart and you will see that the miracle will happen. When our ability to listen to our own heart develops we will be able not only to listen to those around us, but we will also be able to hear what they really have to say. Then it is not important for you anymore to be understood by others, for our compassionate Mother has taught you to understand yourself. Your willingness to feel the pain of separation, caused by not listening to Her who dwells in your heart, makes you soft as the butter that Krishna loved to steal and strong as an arrow of Arjuna which will always reach its goal.

And you will communicate with everything around you, and see Her in all, hear Her in all and speak with Her only and your life will be filled with Her Joy, the Joy of your heart, of all our hearts, which is the core of the Universe.

It is my sincere prayer that these words will give some happiness to my GKS sisters and brothers, and by that to our divine Mother.



The story of the "White Horse" – Shwetashva

Chapter II – Arrival of the Guru – Words of Wisdom

There was this beautiful ranch of the Master that I had seen from time to time and I had also known certain things about the ranch. The things that were being spoken about the ranch always looked like coming straight out of the fairy-tale or a story on Shangri-La. I debated with my fellow mates that such a land, where there was no sadness but happiness forever could never exist. In fact happiness for my mind was defined as the constant supply of fodder for my family and me. I was strong and able and ready to fend for myself. Why then would I ever require the security or cosiness of the ranch?

However I must confess that there was an amount of attraction for the Master of the ranch. He seemed so

serene and happy. He had a noble face, never hurried and never worried. He had a soothing voice. He would come to the fence of the ranch and cheer us in all our endeavours. He himself sometimes got involved in our daily chores with an intention of identifying himself with us. He would then take the most opportune moment and sweetly advise us on how happy the ranch was and invite us to join him in the ranch. This was something that my impulsive mind would never accept. Why should he scheme and try to ensnare us in the ranch was my argument. I must admit, that some times, I felt inclined to follow his words but then observing my other brothers and sisters who were evidently more happy outside I decided not to fall into his trap.

One day the Master came to the gate of the ranch and said "Shwetashva, you need not to come to the ranch but follow my words and implement them in your own world". Now this was something I was willing to do. I agreed to follow his words. He advised me thus "I am the embodiment of Love. I Love you all equally and unconditionally. If you love me too, then spread this Love and Peace in all your family members". How simple, I thought, that is what I have been doing all along, what is it that makes the difference with what He is saying? But, then I made an extra effort to be nice to all my family members. I stopped getting angry at the drop of the hat, I started helping my mother in her household work, I spoke nicely to all the members, never hurting them, trying to solve issues, rather than create more, so that everybody lived in harmony. I found that this was not the same that I had been always doing. There were times when I would have to forego my ego and keep myself calm even if my brothers behaved erratically. Finding me docile they would at times try and snub me more. All in all it became very challenging. But then I loved accepting challenges and I was determined to follow the word of my "beloved" Master. Never realized how the "beloved" word slipped in.

By now I had also started liking the Master. He called me often to the fence and offered courage and support and when I was terribly bruised he would also apply soothing balm to my wounds. I began noticing that there were noticeable transformations in me and now everybody was actually giving me more respect for the forbearance and the love I had showered on them. I began to like the respect and in return I was also getting the extra pound of Love from my Master.

As time progressed I began to "expect" the respect from everybody. This small transformation in me had become my nature; a way of life and everybody accepted me as one who was Loving and Peaceful. The initial magic had worn off and so now my relatives were in no more mood to continue giving me the respect. I also found that even when I was willing to sacrifice my interests, the world

This small transformation in me had become my nature; a way of life and everybody accepted me as one who was Loving and Peaceful.

never sacrificed theirs. They held firmly to their own fancies and also expected me to abide by them. However the concept of Love had by now been so much enshrined in me that it was difficult for me to retaliate. Actually it gave me a very great sense of completeness

to accept the challenge. On deeper rumination I found that all that I held dear and near would not reciprocate the same love and affection. The love and affection between 'us relatives' was more from the fact of being related to somebody rather than love for its own sake. Thus I inferred that this love was more selfish and self-centred. By now I was finding a deep sense of satisfaction by following the words of my Master. Yet though I had experienced the selfishness of the world, I still found it difficult to cut the ties and relate myself to the Master alone. However there was a special relationship now developing with him and the faith in his words was increasing.

Man has this fear of giving up the control of his life to somebody else, he clutches his steering wheel desperately, unwilling to give it to anybody else. The ropes of logic and reasoning that bind his reasoning prevent him from surrendering to the Guru. Yet the Guru calmly advises and guides man. When man sits in a auto rickshaw or a taxi he does not check if the driver can drive properly or if he has a valid license. He readily places his very life in the hands of the driver and that too unconditionally. However when the Guru asks that the devotee places the same faith in Him to take the devotee across the "Bhavasagar" or "the Ocean of Life", the devotee hesitates. This requires the devotee to have explicit faith in the Guru, or the words of the Guru. The Guru in His infinite Patience, Grace and Love coerces the devotee out of this inhibition even if the devotee was to show an iota of acceptance and faith in the Guru. We should remove this inhibition and pray to the Guru to accept us and deliver us. This one sincere prayer is enough to move the Guru; He will immediately take over. He has come only for this. He does it only towards this goal.

The first step in spirituality is to accept the shortcomings and place them at the feet of the Guru and pray for His advice. On receiving the advice it has to be unconditionally followed because Guru's word is as great or greater than the Guru Himself.

Shwetashva (White Horse)

.....to be continued.....

