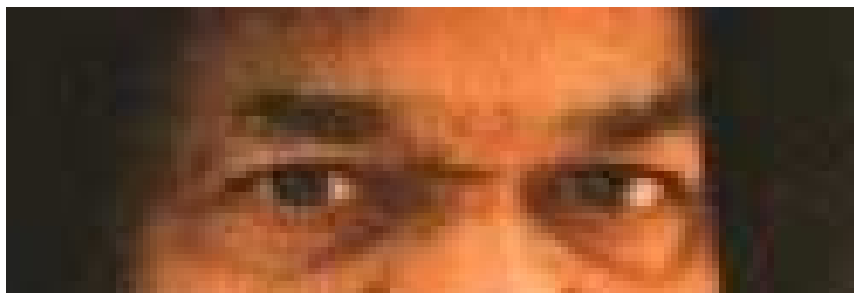


Sai Sandesh



Maha Shivarathri at Puttaparthi



Bhagavan blessed the humanity at large with yet another Lingodhbhavam on March 4th, Sivarathiri, at about 7:15 pm Bhagavan took out a golden shivalingam through His Divine mouth.

Bhagavan announced that it is Golden Linga having the image of Lord Shiva in meditative pose. Many close devotees who were in the verandah were able to see the linga very closely.

There were unprecedented crowds and more than half of them could not enter Sai Kulwant Hall, and were stranded outside. Devotees could not even move around near Ganesa Temple. It looked like a birthday festival during world conference times.

Bhagawan's message on this occasion:

- You should understand that body is but an instrument and Atma is the doer and the enjoyer. Give up body attachment.
- Only God's name will protect you in all periods of time and under all circumstances.
- Love all, do not hate anybody. Sage Vyasa gave the essence of 18 Puranas thus: "Help ever, Hurt never." It is enough if you put this into practice.
- If you want to remain young always, you should have control over your senses. Swami is the direct proof of this.
- You claim yourself to be Swami's devotees. Then is it not your duty to cultivate at least a fraction of Swami's purity?

Sai Diary

March

12	Hospital & Norwood Visit
19	Holi
24	Building Project Meeting
25	Narayan Seva
	New Comers' Evening
26	Zorastrian Celebration
	SSE Easwaramma Competition

April

2	Ugadi
5	Navaratri
9	Hospital & Norwood Visit
12	Rama Navami
15	Narayan Seva
16	Mahavir Jayanthi
21-23	Presidents' Meeting
28	Building Project Meeting
30	Active Workers' Seminar

Sai-lights of Active Workers'



The Active Workers' Seminar on January 30th, 2000 saw a lot of activity. The seminar brought out the dedication and enthusiasm that our sisters and brothers have for swami. Following are

the "Sai-lights" of the seminar

The seminar started with a brief presentation on Swami's teachings on love.

The theme of junior girls' presentation was globalization. They touched on its negative impacts like youth violence, and teens in prison. The need of the hour was Human Values and they kept the audience thinking as to how they should be promoted in our society and what specific action can the youth take.

The senior girls presented their action plan which focussed on tutoring and recreational activities combined with SSE for the community children who needed this the most. They also planned on having talent shows and song writing competitions for these children to encourage them to go out into the society as ideal leaders. The senior girls stressed on the fact that youths need training before they went out in to the community.

The junior boys had a few scenarios to present on the topic of Tradition Religion and Culture. They approached different issues in day to day life. One scenario depicted a situation of peer pressure to consume alcohol in a restaurant. This scenario was placed before the audience and concluded with the message that we should stand firm on the foundation of our cultural heritage and resist such peer pressures with faith and confidence.

The senior boys presented the topic of leadership in a unique and innovative manner. They called their skit "Hands in the Society, Head in the Forrest". The

presentation started off in a movie-like manner with audio and video effects and the main character of the play - Forrest Gump - waiting for his bus. Gump meets various individuals at the TTC bus stop for Puttaparthi, each having a message to convey before the big red "TTC" bus arrives. The dialogue at the bus stop was humorous and portrayed the leadership qualities of Gump (played by Ramanan).

It included catchy phrases like "Life is a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get"; "Enjoy means End Joy"; "Life is a journey from I to We", and "SMILE means Smile, Motivate, Inspire, Love and Enjoy". They play got a standing applause from the audience and depicted Swami's message in a very effective manner.

Our President Chandra Gopie explained the organization structure for our Centre and named the new teams and office bearers.

Satya Poddar provided an update on the Sathya Sai School and the Centre The building project. He read Sri Indulal Shah's description of the events leading to the construction of the Dharmakhetra building in Mumbai. We realized that ours was not the first time that Swami had chosen a remote location (with no water, electricity, and zoning approval) for His buildings. With Swami's grace, the obstacles disappeared like dark clouds in the sunlight, and the Dharmakshetra construction was completed in just 108 days.

Brother Raj Samaroo outlined the preparation in progress for the national Centre Presidents' meeting on April 21-23. Our Centre is hosting the meeting and provides us a wonderful opportunities to please Swami by rendering selfless service saturated with Love.

Exhausted? No, we are all ready for the next one day seminar.....

Vikram Sainadh

SMILE
E
means
Smile
,
Motiv
ate
Inspire

THE PRICELESS KEY TO SALVATION: RAMA

RAMA

There is a story from the classics to illustrate the power of the name "Rama". Sage Prachetas once composed a text with verses, numbering a hundred crores! The three worlds competed among themselves to take the entire text for themselves. The struggle assumed calamitous proportions

and so God brought them together and persuaded them to accept a third each, that is to say, each world (Heaven, Earth and Underworld) received thirty-three crores, thirty-three lacs, thirty-three thousands and three hundred thirty-three verses each. One verse remained undivided. It had thirty-two syllables. When it too was allotted among the three, at the rate of ten syllables each, two syllables were left over! How could two be divided among three?

So, God decided that they be adored and revered by all three worlds equally - The syllables were "Ra" and "Ma", making up the priceless key to salvation : RAMA.

"RaMa"
"a" -
the
priceless
key to
salvation
on

BE PREPARED.

A Californian woman came to Baba, obsessed with anxiety about the predicted San Francisco earthquake.

Baba listened to her fears for a good while, apparently agreeing that an earthquake was likely to happen. "But what shall I do?" the hapless lady asked. Baba leaned forward and whispered dramatically, "Prepare to die....!"



ZEN MASTERY

A young man in the interview room had the shoulder length hair fashionable at the time. After teasing him for looking like a woman, Baba advised him to get it cut. "Will you cut the first lock, Swami?" asked the young man adoringly. Baba shook his head in mock horror, "I am Baba, not Barber!" He said.



DIFFICULTIES ARE FOR OUR OWN GOOD

The following excerpt is from Swami's discourse on Shivratri, March 4, 2000.

When you are faced with difficulties do not get disheartened. Consider that they are for your own good.

You would have noticed Swami talking to a devotee on this platform a few minutes back. His name is Narayana. He is from Madras. Last week he developed heart problem. His son, who is a student our college telephoned to his father asking him to come to Puttaparthi immediately. He came here and doctors who examined him told Me that the four valves of his heart were blocked and it was difficult to perform operation on him. Three doctors who have come from America examined him. In fact, they were surprised to find him alive with such a serious heart problem.

Narayana told them that he had no pain and he was very happy as Swami was with him always. But the doctors were not satisfied. They performed open heart surgery on him for five hours. Four bypasses were done. This operation was performed day before yesterday and today he has come to Mandir. In the normal course, after a bypass surgery, a patient has to be on the bed for at least ten days. But Narayana walked three hundred steps yesterday itself. This is incredible. Doctors served him idlis also. Today he

(Continued on page 5)



ANGEL DELIGHT!

Swami and Hislop were to have a meal at a devotee's home. Swami's entourage was bigger than the hostess had expected. To avoid embarrassment to her, Swami told Hislop, "Go to the car and get the food." Hislop knowing that there was no food, went anyway hoping to find someone there. What he saw there was beyond expectation.

In front of the car were two angels. Yes, with wings, holding plates of food. Hislop took the food from them and went back to Swami, his mouth still open in shock. Swami said, "Shut your mouth, Hislop, they are always there. It is just that you do not see them!"

*Howard Murphet
The Light of Sathya Sai, Malaysia*

He feels the heart problem, which he had was good for him in the sense that it brought him to the Abode of Swami.

*"God is
in you,
before you,
behind you,
beckoning,
guiding,
guarding,
warning,
and prompting
the inner voice
speaking ever
within you."*

One , Two

Do what you are asked to do

Three , Four

Spread love more and more



Five , Six

To serve others, never to be in a fix



Seven, Eight

Duty first, never be late

Nine , Ten

To serve God, serve men.



One day two doctors, husband and wife, were in the interview room. Baba looked at them and said, "This man here is a doctor. This is his wife, who is also a doctor. They are very good doctors, but do you know why they have come here? They have got health problems!"

- Sai Humour

A devotee suggested to Baba that He had the power to solve all India's financial problems by transforming the Indian ocean into oil.
 Baba replied, "If I did, someone like you would probably toss a lighted match into it."

(Continued from page 4), Difficulties are for your own good
has come here wearing pant and shirt, looking like a college boy.

I told him your faith is responsible for this. Right from the beginning, he has been saying that Swami is with him and that He will take care of him. He feels the heart problem, which he had was good for him in the sense that it brought him to the Abode of Swami.

He said our hospital is not just a hospital, but a temple of healing. His operation was performed day before yesterday.

Yesterday he had food and today he has come to Mandir for Swami's darshan. Is it humanly possible? Ask any doctor; they will give an emphatic 'No' as an answer. Such is the nature of human body, but God can change even the nature of the body and grant a bright future. God can transform earth into sky and sky into earth but you should have firm faith in Him.

KNAVE OF HEARTS

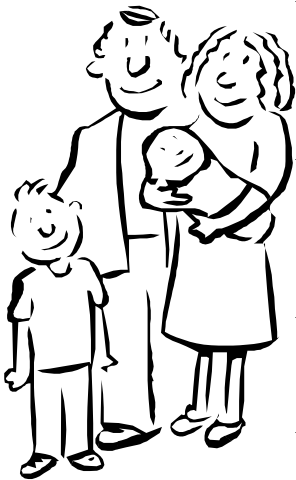
In 1983, in the Kalyana Mandapam in Brindavan, there was a small exhibition arranged by students. The Governor of the time, Sri Govinda Narayan had come and Bhagavan brought him to the Kalyana Mandapam to see the exhibition. After looking through the various displays Bhagavan came to the last item, which was a burglar alarm set up by the science students. There was a beam of light and when it was interrupted, the alarm went off. So one

of the students said, "Swami, please put Your hand here, the alarm will ring." Swami put His hand across the beam - nothing happened. The boy put his hand across the beam, and immediately the alarm rang. Then he asked Swami to try again - but still it didn't ring! The boy was really dumbfounded. The students there looked at each other.

Swami smiled sweetly and said, "I am not that kind of a thief".



WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT PARENTS



A 9-year-old says	My parents are marvellous. They know everything.
A 16-year-old says	My parents do not know as much as I thought. In fact there is a heap of things that they do not know.
A 22-year-old says	My parents do not understand youth. They are completely out of touch with the new generation.
A 30-year-old says	I begin to think that my parents were sometimes right.
A 50-year-old says	My parents knew everything. Gosh! They were marvellous.

When a picture is printed on paper, the picture and the paper become one.

Similarly, it is not possible for a true devotee to separate from God.

(1) GOD (2) OM (3) ANGER (4) AARATHI (5) SHANTHI (6) TRUTH (7) NON-VIOLENCE (8) DESIRE (9) JEALOUSY (10) HURT (11) LOVE (12) PRIDE (13) DHARMA (14) BABA (15) SERVE (16) MAN (17) MEDITATE (18) SAI (19) SEVA (20) PRANAMS

(Continued from page 8)

Imprint
the
form
of God
in your
heart,
and
with
the
body
do
service.

School Project Presented to Markham City

Remembering GOD, praying to Him, often daily, and regularly, is a great advantage and a necessity of life.

In this world of material attractions, with the uncontrollable pull of human senses and desires, the mind gets clouded with worries, anxieties, and uncertainties. It is here that prayers can be very helpful in washing away the clouds in our minds.

The morning of January 20 was bright. However, the minds of our building project committee were a little clouded. They were on a special mission to meet the Deputy Mayor of Markham to present before him the Sathya Sai School building project. This was the first time that the project was being presented formally to the City and naturally tension was in the air. Little did these people realize that at the same time as they were approaching the Deputy Mayor, many of our other brothers and sisters were offering their steadfast prayers to the Divine Master. They felt a tremendous burst of energy and confidence during the presentation. The words followed in the meetings in a flawless manner. The Deputy Mayor, Frank Scarpitti and his officials were impressed with the message of the presentation and the need for incorporating human values in our education system. Rather than finding excuses for their inability to help, they

started thinking constructively and promised their full co-operation. According to Dayal Bhai who has dealt with the City before, this meeting was different in that those present did not make even a single negative comment.

How could this have been possible without the silent prayers from the Centre members?

This has been further confirmed by Bhagawan who gave a vision to one of our Centre members and asked that we do prayers on the Markham land. Such a prayer was organized on February 22 with a *havan* on the snow clad surface of the land.



Feb 22, 2000: Devotees performing prayers on the Markham land.

In another vision, Bhagawan asked that the devotee contribute to the success of the project by starting likita japam.

First find out the words from the clues given below (number of letters given in brackets) and then search for those words in the grid of letters. The words could run in any direction, but always in a straight line.

- | | |
|---|--|
| [1] Always pray to _____ (3) | [8] Ceiling on _____ (6) |
| [2] Pranava Mantra (2) | [9] Matsarya (8) |
| [3] Krodha (5) | [10] Help ever _____ never. (4) |
| [4] We perform _____ after bhajans. (7) | [11] Prema (4) |
| [5] Peace (7) | [12] Madha (5) |
| [6] Sathya (5) | [13] 1997 was the year of _____ (6) |
| [7] Ahimsa (11) | [14] Our beloved Bhagawan (4) |
| | [15] Love all _____ all. (5) |
| | [16] Service to _____ is service to God. (3) |
| | [17] Silent prayer (8) |
| | [18] _____ Ram. (3) |
| | [19] Narayana _____ (4) |
| | [20] Humble _____ to Bhagawan. (7) |

Z F P G T F O E L Y A Z I
 L Z S O M J S U E R Z O W
 P R I D E S I R E A H R Y
 T U D G H O A Y C O T T O
 X J H E E H S P E M U S I
 H U A V L U W T X N R H S
 N W R O O R A Z M B T A R
 O E M L C T K R O A A N D
 S A A H I T P I R B O T T
 V E W D E F N A D A N H S
 J H E S I M A N H S D I A
 O M P E N Z U G O T L L Z
 N O N V I O L E N C E O N
 T R S A O N P R A N A M S

answers on page 5

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