

Om Sri Sai Ram

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# A MEANINGFUL, EVENTFUL AND BLISSFUL INWARD JOURNEY

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## **MY PLEA**

I have started the present book 'A Meaningful, Eventful and Blissful Inward Journey' on 26-10-2013 and continued it till 19-2-2014. While writing this book I have maintained My Confidentiality with our Supreme Lord. As such I am just a writer, but the actual contents were supplemented by Him. After completing the book I have given a thought over 'My' role in this book and prayed Our Master for a suitable response. I got a response immediately in the form of a query. "Who will enjoy the confidentiality of Lord Rama"? The Answer is 'Sita'. What is the spiritual meaning of Sita? Sita means Sugnaanam i.e. 'Good Knowledge'. This means all those who possess Good Knowledge can maintain Confidentiality with Our Master and experience bliss.

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

Whatever that comes from the heart will have Divine origin, says Baba. In this context, I request the readers to read this book from their heart.

## GREETINGS

Sairam to all,

The title of this book sounds very pleasing to our heart. To maintain confidentiality with our Supreme Lord is a rare opportunity. This is not feasible to all. Through this book our Vivekananda Reddy has presented well his access to our Supreme Lord through his spiritual analysis and experiences in a fearless way. In order to reach his state we all must first contemplate on God, understand Divine teachings and then implement them in practice. Everyone cannot do this. By God's Grace our Reddy could follow the Divine prescriptions as ordained by Him.

Even though all the experiences presented in this book are Mr.Reddy's personal experiences, they show some light on all of us. In this book there are no descriptions and comparisons as Mr.Reddy is not a poet but a spiritual aspirant. All his spiritual experiences make us feel that spirituality is an easy task and that it is within our reach. With his simple living Mr.Reddy is not only pure at mind but also broad at heart. We all must appreciate him in sharing his experiences with all of us. The information he gave us through this book is priceless.

Nowadays, patrons have lost interest in reading spiritual literature, but Mr.Reddy has made it a regular habit and gained subsequently by putting them into practice. He always maintained a good company. He used to clarify many spiritual doubts and aims for their well being.

Everyone must not only read this book completely but also must enable others to read it. Reading this book will be a blissful experience. I once again congratulate Mr.Reddy for bringing out this book.

With Best Wishes

B.Sitaram Babu

President, Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisations,

East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India.

## FOREWORD

Aum Sri Sairam!

All those who undertake an inward path, will face a lot of questions. Most of the time, these questions remain unanswered. In our present society, the spiritual aspirants who opt for an inward path are less in number. The reasons for their less numbers can be many. They are

1. Our mind is easily contaminated.
2. Lot of competition for survival.
3. Prevalence of selfish tendencies among men and women.
4. To be more greedy.
5. Tempted to follow the latest developments or trends.
6. Lack of clarity over issues and many more.

Under these circumstances, I am feeling that we are not making the much needed Spiritual effort to improve our inner self.

Because of the auspiciousness of our past births, for having been born as counterparts to the Lord Almighty (Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba), we are indeed blessed. Almighty God has selected many spiritual giants of the status of King Janaka as his instruments for the welfare of our society. I am indeed blessed to enter the Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, having realized Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba as a Divine Incarnation. As a result I have come across many spiritual giants of the status of King Janaka as friends and counterparts. I first met Mr.Sanyasi Naidu with whose friendship I have experienced many spiritual lessons. The author of this book comes next. He lives true to his name. His name is "Eswaradatta Subrahmanya Vivekananda Reddy". Eswara means Simplicity personified. Datta means illumined personality. Subrahmanya means Man of action. Vivekananda means he who enjoys bliss through discrimination and shares the knowledge to all those around him. Reddy means ruler, an efficient guide. We are very grateful to the Lord for having been in regular contact with these individuals to gain illumination through them. With their association my faith in God has increased and I am making my efforts to achieve my goals. I feel this as my privilege to write these words.

Mr. Vivekananda Reddy is a selfless and plain personality. I need not elaborate anything special about him. Before tasting the dish, there is the need to describe its taste. If we read this book, we will learn more about him. His special feature is that he never utters lies. After experiencing the truths, he will reveal these truths to others without any hesitation. He is an illuminated soul, who experienced spirituality. He is a kind person with simple living. He has no other personal desires but to work for others welfare. He anxiously shares his knowledge with all those around him. Through his sacrifices, he is an ideal for others to follow. In this context, I must mention about another person. She is my sister Satyaveni, wife of Vivekananda Reddy. Indeed, she is an intellectual wife, having a lot of divine grace. For every man's success, a woman stands behind him as his support. In the same way,

she has supported well to his husband's cause and ideals. Her name is Satyaveni. Satya means Truth and Veni means a river. She possessed all the virtues of her husband. Hence with their righteous living they serve as an ideal couple.

Why I am briefing about this couple? The contents of this book will help the spiritual aspirants in a very simple way. Both their parents are indeed blessed. Their children too are indeed blessed. For being their counterparts, we too are blessed.

This is not my Foreword. I will confidently say that we all have obtained a path which will lead us to Divinity.

Harirdhaata! Harirbhoktaa! Harirannam Prajapathihi

Harirviprah! Sarirasthu, Bhunkthe Bhojayathe Harihi

Through this poem, it is evident that Hari, the Sustainer is not only our source of food, but also the consumer and assimilator of our food. In the same way, it is our Lord who is working through this author. The Author has presented the contents in a fair and simple way, with an open mind without maintaining any confidentiality. Because of his sincere effort, I feel we all got a good book.

To understand spirituality under the circumstances, the author has presented issues in a very simple and easy manner. We all are indebted to the author for the contents of this book and hence must convey our gratitude to him.

M. Parvatha Vardhana Rao,

Ravulapalem.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

After spending some time in the hot sun and when we move into an Air Conditioned room, we feel a lot of comfort. In the same way when we get habituated to conveying gratitude to our fellow beings around we will enjoy the same comfort in our daily life too, says Bhagawan Baba. For being born as humans, it is our duty to convey our gratitude to God, parents, teachers, relatives, friends and to the society at large, says Baba. I have attempted this book not for my satisfaction and purpose. But I want to convey my gratitude to all those who directly or indirectly contributed to the contents of this book. In this context, I wish to state that there are many living and departed souls, who must be saluted for their role.

I must convey my heartfelt gratitude to Our Supreme Lord for showering abundant Grace and Blessings upon me and thereupon bestowing infinite bliss. For constantly contemplating on my wellbeing and welfare I convey my loving gratitude to my parents, sister and brother, apart from my wife and children who followed me in close quarters. I am always grateful to my teachers, friends and relatives who shared a lot of affection and love towards me. As a part of Society, I am indebted to many souls to whom I convey my heartfelt gratitude.

In the beginning because of limitations I could not offer my services to my satisfaction. Hence I prayed our Lord to take care of this lapse. As an answer to my prayers, I got shifted to Ravulapalem, where I could do my bit under the noble guidance of Mr.Sanyasi Naidu and Vardhana Rao. Working with them, all my dissatisfaction has disappeared. "Where there is Sacrifice, there will be Glory", says Baba. Under their guidance, the Organisational activities have expressed Kindness, Love, Unity and Compassion. In this context, I acknowledge our supreme Lord for showering on us His infinite grace and blessings in the form of 'Sathya Sai Astadhala Seva Pushpam' where all the service activities were organized under one roof, under the supervision of Vardhana Rao. I pray Our Lord to shower His abundant Grace on all units of Sai Organisation with an Astadhala Seva Pushpam, in the days to come. I take this opportunity to convey my humble and heartfelt gratitude to all our local lady and gent sevadals and also to the caretakers of the Astadhala Seva Pushpam.

Bhagawan Baba's affection to East Godavari is a well known fact to the world. Our East Godavari Sai Organisation is always lead by stalwarts who were Pious, efficient, compassionate, kind and loving personnel. Under their leadership, our district has been selected and assigned a Flagship project under SSSVIP to render service to the tribals of our district. The task assigned is not easy but by His Grace, it was achieved with effortless ease. For achieving this goal, Baba blessed us twice with two Parthi trips and granted extreme bliss. The hallmark of our leaders and the sevadal is to follow the teachings of Baba i.e. with Unity, Purity and Divinity. I enjoyed working with them and hence it's my duty to convey my heartfelt gratitude to all of them.

Since joining the organization in 1976 as a Sevadal, I have attended many service activities at Parthi, participated in many district level meetings and activities as a district Study Circle Convener. As such, I am lucky enough to meet many state leaders. In this context, the past and the present State Presidents of the Organisation like Mr Anil Kumar, Mr Anjanaiah and Mr Chalam have shared their valuable views with me. All these men speak from their Heart. There are many state level organizers who shared their love and affection with me. To all such loving and noble men I convey my heartfelt gratitude.

Before the construction of our Astadhala Seva Pushpam, Bhagawan Baba has conveyed me with an inward message stating that under the guidance of Mr.Vardhana Rao, our Ravulapalem unit will stand as an Ideal platform for others to follow. I lack words to express Vardhana Rao's compassion. "In Kindness we can see the giver and the receiver, but in Compassion both the giver and the receiver are God" says Baba. He organises all activities with so much ease and efficiency that

the participants feel happy and gain confidence in conducting such activities at their places. I feel happy to be a part of these activities.

Vardhana Rao has another special feature in him. Generally all those who lead the Sathya Sai Organisational activities will limit themselves to the Organisation. In this regard he stands apart. Apart from the Sai Organisation activities, everybody in our Ravulapalem involves him in all social and service activities held in our village. He never tries to evade them. He grabs every opportunity to serve his fellow beings around. My life became more fruitful in his presence. He wrote from his heart the foreword for this book. As I am helpless in conveying my gratitude to him in words and thoughts, I humbly do it from my heart.

After writing this book in Telugu with the title 'Bhagavanthunitho Aekaanthavaasamu' and in English as 'A Meaningful, Eventful and Blissful Inward Journey', I gave them to Sri Kompella Ramakrishna Paramahansa Garu, Retired IAS Officer and Founder of Sri Sai Viswanatha Foundation, to read and convey his suggestions. He happily accepted them, read and conveyed his wishes to me. Initially I want to bring the Telugu version in print form. He suggested me to place both these versions in his vedamu.org, so that they can be made available to all the interested readers. For his hearty suggestion, I feel it as my duty to convey him my heartfelt gratitude.

K.E.S.VIVEKANANDA REDDY

# 01. DAILY PRAYERS

Dr Gadhia was studying MBBS around 1965. During these days, whenever Gadhia made a visit to Puttaparthi, Bhagawan Baba used to Grant him an interview. In one such interview, Gadhia requested Baba to grant him liberation in this birth itself. Baba responded by saying that He will reply to his liberation aspect in his next visit. After some time Gadhia visited Puttaparthi again. He was called for an interview. In the interview room there were other devotees along with Gadhia. Baba blessed them all by stating that they will have the 'Divine Closeness' (Sannidhi) of Prema Sai in their next birth. Gadhia could not relish this and became upset. "Why another Birth?" he lamented to himself. He expressed his dissatisfaction to Baba by saying that he wants liberation in this birth itself. Baba replied, "Do you pray God daily?" for which Gadhia replied positively. "What is the content of your daily prayer?" Baba asked Gadhia again. As the daily prayer was in Sanskrit, he stated that he does not know the meaning of it. To this Baba replied, "Through your daily prayer you are praying God for Divine Proximity and I will be conceding your wish during Prema Sai". After this clarification, Gadhia was satisfied.

In this context, Baba stated that God's Proximity is preferred to Liberation. Even the last chapter of Bhagawad Gita, 'Moksha Sanyaasa Yogam' conveys the same meaning, i.e. man must sacrifice even Liberation for God's Proximity.

After reading Gadhia's experience, it was a great lesson for me. I gave a thought to my daily prayers to realize their importance. Every day after bath, I became habituated to daily prayers ever since my very childhood. I continue the same daily prayers even now. I am praying with a stable, pure and selfless mind for the last fifty years. I am writing here my daily prayers, which are very simple popular poems. I am presenting them as such.

1\* Sukhlam bharadharam Vishnum sasivarnam chathurbhujam

Prasannavadhanam dhyayaeth sarva vignoopa santhayae

2\* Thondamu naekadhanthamunu Thoorapu bhojjayu vaamahasthamul

Menduga mrooyu gazzalunu mellani choopulu mandahaasamul

Kondoka gujju roopamuna koorina vidyala nella nojjavai undedi

Parvathi thanaya ooyii Ganadhipa neekhu mrokkedhan

3\* Devi Devi rammu, Kaavu mamma mammu

Chinnavaari mamma, Kannathalli vamma

Manchi thelivi itchi, Pedda chaduvu litchi,

Suddha Gnaana mitchi, mammu broovu mamma, maravaku mammu eppudu

4\* Aum Boorbuvah suvah, Thath savithurvarenyam bargo devasya dheemahi

Dheeyo yonah prachodhayaeth

5\* Sri Rama Raama Raamethi, Rame Raame Manorame

Sahasra naama thathulyam Raama naama varanane

6\* Yatra yatra Raghunadha keerthanam thathra thathra kritha mastha kaanjalin

Bhasphavaari paripoorna lochanam Maaruthim namatha raakshasanthakam

7\* Neevae thallivi thandrivi Neevae naa thodu needa Neevae sakudavu

Neevae Gurudavu Dhaivamu Neevae naa pathiyu gathiyu nijamuga Krishna

8\* Krishnam vande Jagathgurum, Krishnam kamala Pathraaksham, punyasravana

Keerthanam Vaasudevam Jagathjoinim namami Naarayanim Harim

I have added another two prayers in the last ten years.

9\* Vakra thunda Mahakaaya Kooti surya samaprabha

Nirvignam kurumedeve sarvakaaryeshu sarvadha

10\* Sarvevai sukinassanthu Sarvesanthu niraamayaa

Sarve bhadraani pasyanthu maa kaschith dhukka maapnuyaath

After I started the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> prayers, I have received abundant God's grace to complete the "Asthala Seva Pushpam". The entire contents of this book stand as a testimony to my daily prayers.

Apart from the above prayers during my school and college days, I have added a few more items in my daily prayers. I have discontinued them after a few years, but I don't know why. In this way, the following items have found a place in my daily prayers for a few years. They are

1. Hanuman Chaalisa
2. Bhagawad Gita 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter.
3. Bhagawad Gita 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter.
4. Aaditya Hridayam
5. Sri Vidya Prakasa Anandagiri Swami's Prayer presented as a part of his commentary on Bhagawad Gita. I have started this prayer since my 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> year and continued it for many years. This prayer is presented in a very simple manner and can be understood even by children. I am presenting the text of this prayer here.

Oh Compassionate Lord! Enable us to contemplate at your feet under all times and circumstances with an unwavering faith and devotion.

Oh Kind One! Right from dawn to dusk, enable us to help others and prevent us from doing any harm to them through our thoughts, words and deeds.

Oh Blissful One! Oh Pious Soul! Please prevent bad thoughts, bad habits and ignorance from entering my inner being.

Oh Learned One! Our Protector and Savior! Promote Devotion, Wisdom and Detachment in us to enable spiritual progress. Give us strength to get liberation in this birth itself.

Oh Lord! You love your devotees. You provide everything to the needy. But for you, who will take care of me. I hereby surrender at Your Feet. Enable us to get promoted from finite (temporary) to infinity (eternity). Shower Your Grace to enable us to move from darkness (ignorance) to light (wisdom). Guide us to move from mortality to immortality. This is my plea. Please bless and enable us to reach you. I surrender to you.

Right from my childhood, I had a strong desire to see God. Because of this strong desire for God, Because of my ardent fervor and devotion for God, I have received His grace in abundance, but without my knowledge. I have realized His help in the later days. The unseen Divine Hand has guided me all through my spiritual progress. Before reading the Gadhia's experience, my daily prayers though performed with ardent fervor and devotion, appeared mechanical. After learning Gadhia's experience, I introspected myself and realized that the Supreme God has not left me without His care, even for a moment. I felt Bliss for all His care and guidance.

In this context, I shall quote here a few of Bhagawan Baba's message, which I relish a lot.

- I separated Myself from Myself to Love Myself. This message suggests us that we all are a part of His Divinity. Knowing this truth and as per this message, man must learn to LOVE God.
- God **enlightens** man with His Divine Knowledge.  
God **follows** the path of Truth.  
God **practices** Righteousness.  
God **grants** Peace to Man.  
God **expects** Love from Man.
- God's Physical rays will be spread all over Prasanthi Nilayam. God's Finite rays will occupy the entire world. God's subtle rays will spread the entire universe.  
The impact of God's Physical rays will initiate the Spiritual seekers. The impact of God's Finite rays will give rise to great spiritual masters. The impact of God's subtle rays will pave way for pathfinders (Paramahamsas).
- When we approach God for help, God will be extremely pleased to help us.
- In helping man, God's Love will reach man much faster than man's mind.
- God protects man from all sides, under all times and under all circumstances. He is always ready to help man.
- "Your Tears relish me", says Bhagawan Baba. But for God, can anybody on earth dare to say these words. Any prayer with divine fervor will reach and please God. God will lend His Helping Hand to one and all. If man fails to receive God's Help, the fault lies with man and not with God, says Baba.

## 02. ABOUT MYSELF

Today is 26-10-2013, our 35<sup>th</sup> marriage anniversary day. Life is progressing peacefully and blissfully -- the reason being God. And hence on this special occasion, I conveyed my special acknowledgements to the Lord.

Everyday after bath, I sit before our Lord for about half an hour peacefully. During this half an hour, I recollect His Formless attributes and also the technical knowledge about my spiritual experiences. Just like any other day, even today this half an hour passed on peacefully, but with a difference. All my thoughts revolved around the topic, "My Confidentiality with our Master". I had many memorable divine experiences which rolled one after another. The contents of this book have been supplemented by our Lord. I am just a writer to pen them down.

I maintained Confidentiality with our unseen Master. It is OK for me, but how about others? I always mixed and stayed with the people. When I moved with everyone around, then how can I admit my confidentiality with our Master? My life is a journey with both inner vision and external vision. My external outlook is less significant. Though I mingled with everybody around on a physical plane, I never left our lord even for a few moments. Through my inner vision, I was always in contact with our Lord. If you make a search for God outside, he is not to be seen. So make a search for him, deep within. He who has inner vision, God is very much familiar to them. For them God is a close associate, a mentor, a guide, a friend and everything. God resides in our spiritual heart. When I improved my kinship with such an inner God, it is this confidentiality with our master which stabilised and gained ground with time.

My human consciousness is finite but Divine consciousness is infinite. As a finite being, when I maintained confidentiality with the infinite supreme consciousness, I have experienced traces of his infinite consciousness on a number of occasions. All such experiences are very memorable and everlasting. Our language falls short of describing such joyful experiences. I had few such experiences.

Our elders admit that human birth is very rare. Every human must learn the importance of a his birth. Only then it will reap rich dividends.

In every temple lies the Deity. Even our body contains Divinity in the form of Indweller. So our body can be considered a moving temple. This body is compared to a chariot, by our elders. The horses which pull the chariot forward are our senses. The reins which control the horses, is our mind. He who handles the reins is the Driver. This Driver is our intelligence. On this chariot sits its Boss, i.e., the Soul. But man, because of his ignorance is unable to realize his soul relationship. On the other hand he is showing more concern towards his body, his mind, his senses and his intelligence. How

and when can man realize this lapse? When man will realize his true nature? Oh Lord! Please help man to realize his true self.

The driver of the chariot must be aware of his duties. If the intelligence fails in its duties, then the mind will play havoc, says our Lord Sathya Sai. Man frequently repeats that God has indeed blessed man with intelligences, but to be frank God has blessed man not only with intelligence, but also with another important entity, i.e., Spiritual Heart. Our Spiritual heart can contain the entire universe says Sathya Sai. So it is equally very important for all of us to first realize our God given resources (about our true Self) to achieve our spiritual goals. Our spiritual heart is the source of our bliss which is directly proportional to its expansion.

He who utilizes the God given intelligences to optimal use will expand his spiritual heart to great proportions, and will always convey his gratitude to the lord and thereafter will maintain his kinship with our Lord. Thus the confidentiality with our Lord begins....

**About My Intelligences and my spiritual Heart:** Bhagawan Baba has explained that our intelligences will work in 11 different ways. When I first heard of these eleven types of intelligences, I remained in bliss for many days. During my childhood I had no knowledge about these eleven types of intelligences. By the time I heard of these eleven types of intelligences, I was 45 years old. But the truth is that I am utilizing all the eleven types of intelligences, on my own, right from my childhood. This means I am utilizing 100% of my intelligences since my childhood.

I shall briefly present here the eleven types of intelligences.

1. Plain Intelligence: This intelligence is similar to that of a child. A child's mind is very pure, free from bad thoughts.
2. Discriminative Intelligence: This helps man to discriminate between good and bad.
3. Common Intelligence: All the general rules which every man must learn to lead a meaningful life.
4. Unbiased Intelligence: As the name suggests Justice is announced on purely merit basis and not on any biased grounds.
5. Selfless Intelligence: All the creatures in this world work selflessly, except man. As per our Lord's dictum, even man must work selflessly, without aspiring for the fruits of his actions.
6. Stable Intelligence: We make many decisions, but fail to withstand time. We change our decisions very frequently. This is not good. We must make stable decisions.
7. Decision making Intelligence: It sounds strange but true that only 5% men among us are making decisions. The remaining 95% men are afraid of taking decisions i.e., they depend upon others to take decisions or they don't take decisions at all.
8. Analytic Intelligence: As our life progress, we face a lot of problems. Using this Analytic intelligence, we can solve our problems on our own.
9. Creative Intelligence: With this intelligence, man can achieve anything. Nothing is impossible for him.
10. Farmer's Intelligence: What will a Farmer do? He will sow seeds. Seeds will grow into saplings. Among the saplings, weeds too grow. A farmer will remove all the weeds. Likewise, using this intelligence, man realizing his own follies must leave them behind to move from strength to strength.
11. Matured Intelligence: He who practices the above ten intelligences can easily surrender to God. Such a life will turn blissful.

God has blessed man with a Golden Mountain. What is this Golden Mountain? This is the Spiritual heart. But man, not realizing his inner golden mountain, is just satisfied with a few gold ornaments on a physical plane, says Baba. The moment a man realizes this golden mountain deep within him, he will make inroads for everlasting joy, peace and Bliss.

God has blessed man with a wish fulfilling cow, kamadhenu to him. What is this Kamadhenu? This Kamadhenu is the God given intelligences, which serves man in a number of ways.

But man with his limited physical vision is not realizing the full capacity of this wish fulfilling cow. With his physical view man is just satisfied with only a few liters of milk. He who utilizes all the eleven types of intelligences is indeed blessed with bliss.

God's love is infinite. God's love is compared with an eternal stream of water. Water covers all low lying areas. He who wishes to utilize this water must make a move into this eternal water stream. But see how ill luck prevails upon man. He is very near to the stream but with his ego is stationed only a few inches above it. What a pity? Thus man with his ego is losing a golden opportunity to win God's Grace.

What have I done since my childhood? Without any traces of ego, I got accustomed to this eternal flow of God's love. This God's love has supplemented me both the dualities of life i.e. sorrows and joys of life. These sorrows on an external plane may not be acceptable to man but they really help him to realize the infinite resources that lie deep within him. These infinite resources are the golden mountain and the wish-fulfilling cow i.e., the spiritual heart and the intelligences. All the physical ailments will disappear sooner or later. But all those who make a living with this spiritual heart and intelligences will reap everlasting benefits of joy and happiness.

Owing to the fruits of my past actions of my previous births, since my childhood, i.e., from the age of 5 or 6, I had one strong desire – to see God. This one strong desire in me has made me travel to this distance. I just limited myself to the good things of life, for just one good reason i.e., to win the Grace of God. I am afraid of committing wrong because if I commit bad then God will not grant his vision. This was my childhood status, which continued in me till I reached the Goal of my life i.e., God-Realisation.

Irrespective of the pros and cons of life, man must get prepared to merge in the eternal flow of Divine stream. In the process man must slowly shift from external vision to internal vision. One must reduce one's ego to get maximum benefits from this eternal stream of divine Grace. It is these dualities of life which help man to achieve everlasting joy and bliss in the long run.

Shift from external vision to inner vision, reduce your ego, etc may be easily said than done. This is what a common man feels. But this is not true in case of a man who practices what he precepts. Nothing is either impossible or difficult to a person who practices things quite easily. In this regard, I must convey my sincere thanks both to my mind and my intelligences. In my mind, only one thought prevailed, and that thought is to implement all good things in life. And coming to my intelligences, childlike intelligence is always on the fore.

### 3. ABOUT MY MIND

Bhagawan Baba in His message has conveyed that man must work with his spiritual heart rather than his mind. When I learned this message for the first time I experienced a lot of bliss. I shall present here the state of my mind when I learned this message.

God is unseen, but He is aware of each and every aspect of each and every living being. Man must follow God in all his daily routine. This Divine Path is best suited for both worldly and inward path, which brings a meaning, decency and bliss to life. Right from my childhood I was very fond of service. I was good in studies and in games. I used to share my energies with everybody around. In the process of sharing, I have seen many pros and cons. In all these issues, I used to introspect myself from both sides. As a result, I used to understand the problems with ease. Because of my introspection, problem solving in most cases has become an easy affair. In the process I have faced ignorant and some very hard nuts. Through the religious texts, Righteousness has preached the way for a four step solution. It is called Saama, Dhaana, Bheedha and Dhandopaaya in Telugu i.e. the four steps for problem solving involves Fair Talk, followed by Sacrifice, Opposition and Punishment. I became habituated to this system in a natural way. Following Righteousness a Cat can convert itself into a Tiger and vice versa. In most circumstances, I used to solely depend on God for my efforts, support and rescue. Even though I was successful in most of the cases, I failed tackling the ignorant and the hardnuts.

Initially I used to feel sorry for the behavior of these ignorant and the hardnuts. Sometimes I used to hate their behavior. Very soon I realized that I am wrong in feeling sorry and for hating them. In this context, I stopped thinking ill about them. I even started praying God to give them Good Mind. In this way, I stopped thinking ill about others and very soon realized that I became very strong in the process. For my efforts and faith in God, He very soon cleared my mind from the ignorant and the hardnuts.

During my childhood it became a part of my life to have dreams. As I was class first during my school, I dreamt of becoming an excellent Doctor. I have dreamt of a good, understanding and a beautiful wife too. In the same way a few more dreams shared my childhood and youth. In this way a part of my life has been spent in dreaming. By the time I completed my education, I had a very good woman as my better half. All the remaining dreams remained unfulfilled. Since then I stopped dreaming. I started doing all my works with the unity of thought, word and deed. In this context, I never thought of the end results. I converted all my actions as God's deeds. Bhagawan Baba has stated that the mode of action fetches more satisfaction than the end result. When I realized this truth, I remained in Bliss for many days.

In this way, by the time I completed my 25 years, all my thought processes have been greatly reduced. I never think ill of others. I never hate anybody. Instead of hating I started loving others. I stopped dreaming a long back. I stopped involved in useless thought processes. In this way my thought processes came to a standstill.

Right from my childhood, I maintained punctuality in all my works. I go out of my home to attend to my works. The remaining time, I spend at my home. Reading religious texts has become a daily habit for me. I watch very less of TV. I watch cricket and films only in TV. In this way, I am providing more rest to my mind, which is always in a relaxed state. As I think less, I have very few words to speak with my family members. But still, all my family members bear me with a lot of love.

Right from my childhood I became habituated to working with my mind as well as my spiritual heart. Until I read Baba's message, I felt it as mind's role all the way. But once I realized the role of the spiritual heart, I relaxed a lot. I felt very blissful for this realization. By the time, I realized this truth I have already switched completely to working with my spiritual heart. Thus my mind's role became very diminutive ever since I completed my 25 years. Now, I shall sum up my mind from the technical side.

**The Six Sins:** I must admit a few things about my mind. Right from my childhood my mind was very pure i.e., the six sins which trouble the mind has never troubled me. Mind is usually contaminated with these six sins. These six sins are Lust, Anger, Miserliness, Attraction, Greed and Jealousy.

I had no Anger from my younger days. I have no physical desires or Lust. I had a few good desires. Among these good desires, it is the desire to see God which prevailed upon the rest. In that young age, I don't know if it is Fear for God or Love for God, but this thought enabled me to convert all acts into divine acts. I am clarifying, that it is not the fear of God, but it is only the Love for God which persisted. And coming to the fears, it is the fear to commit bad which persisted.

My Mind was never troubled by miserliness. I am kind and compassionate to everybody around. Financially I might not have helped anybody, but with my body and my mind, I always rendered my services all the time, since my childhood. For not supporting others on financial grounds never bothered me, but for promptly serving others with my body and mind, I always enjoyed satisfaction.

I was least attracted by external worldly entities. I never asked my father or mother for money. My mother does not know how to save money. My father does not know how to supplement the daily needs of his family. As such whatever little money I possessed, I don't know how to spend it. I enjoyed all the objects of this world through my eyes. The idea to possess them never arose in me. We used to stay in Hyderabad. Every year we used to attend the Exhibition twice. Throughout the year many relatives used to attend our house. If it is January means, we will visit Exhibition. In Exhibition most of the relatives children used to buy things through their elders, but I always remained a silent spectator of events. After returning home, all those relatives used to praise me for being a silent spectator. For these unexpected accolades I used to feel happy, at that young age.

Greed never bothered me. For most of my school career I used to get class first and I was my class monitor for 3 – 4 years. I never felt greed for being class first or for being a class monitor. I used to help all my classmates with my class notes. As such everybody liked me. In that young age I never thought of the riches possessed by my friends. We all behaved as equals. During games we all mixed as one single bunch.

And what can I say about my Jealousy? That never prevailed in my thought processes. When my neighbors are happy, I used to feel happy or I am just inert. I never felt jealousy about others.

I must really admit that I am indeed very lucky to possess such a pure mind.

To speak frankly, I never had any knowledge about these six sins which contaminate the mind, until I was 25 years old. I first went to Puttaparthi in 1971. Since then all our family members became ardent Sai devotees. But at that time, in our place, there was no Balvikas and hence I never learned about these six sins, until I was 25 years old. I started reading books since I was around 25 years and hence there was no clarity in me regarding spirituality before this age.

When I first learned about these six sins which contaminate the mind, and that these six sins are to be left out to achieve peace and progress, I immediately made an introspection of myself for these six sins in me. And upon realization that I am free from these six sins, I enjoyed an everlasting bliss. Who guided me from these six sins at that young age? It is my love for God which guided me silently to win over these six sins.

Generally, when we see our foes on an external plane, we feel uncomfortable. All these six sins are our internal enemies. He who possesses the six sins will feel restless all the 24 hours of the day, warns our religious texts. Under the context, I am very lucky indeed to be free from six sins.

When we pray God with a pure mind, it will reach God in no time. If the prayer fails to reach God, then the fault lies with man, says Baba. So, in this regard, we must get rid of these six sins as early as possible.

If I assume that I had never possessed these six sins from my childhood, then I assume that all the men around us may or may not possess all the six sins in them. It was Ravana, the demon king, who possessed all the six sins in him and hence with his behavior he stood as a symbol of all vices. In our Society, men may possess none, only a few or all of these six sins in them. We all must make efforts to get rid of all the prevailing six sins. The greatest asset of a man is to possess a PURE MIND.

**The Six Good habits to Control Mind:** How to control the six sins of the mind? The religious texts prescribe six good deeds to control the six sins of the mind. They are

In Hindu Mythology these six good deeds are called

1. Samamu ( Inner Vision)
2. Damamu ( Sense Control)
3. Uparathi (Living in close proximity with God)
4. Thitheeksha ( State of Equanimity)
5. Sraddha& ( To show interest in good things of life)
6. Samadhaanamamu (To acknowledge the responses from our Indweller).

Our elders are more practical. They advise us always to be positive. A man with six sins will be restless. The six good deeds will help man to dislodge the six sins possessed in him. When I learned of these six good deeds for the first time, I again checked myself for these six good deeds in me and to my surprise I am practicing all these good acts since a long time. I was ecstatic. How I received such guidance? It was due to my kinship with our Lord which guided me through.

**My Inner Vision:** I have developed inner vision right from a very young age. I have become habituated to good things of life. I feared doing bad things. What is inner vision? Our lord says that we must pose 3 questions for every act we undertake. These 3 questions are

1. What is Good and what is Bad?
2. What is Permanent and what is Temporary?
3. What is Truth and what is Untruth?

Based on these 3 questions we must take decisions to act. This is Inner vision. Our Lord really helps us always with such simple truths for the benefit of Humanity.

Really speaking, when I was very young, my inner vision worked partially. That is, 'What is Good and what is Bad?' have become a part of my life. But as I progressed I developed the other two questions. But the strange thing is that I have theoretical knowledge of this Inner vision (about the 3 questions) when I was around 45 years. But here again, I realized that I am practicing my inner vision since a long time. Who is guiding me through? It is again our Lord. It is my kinship with our Lord, which enabled me with such guidance. So in this way a lot of clarity was gained to my spirituality by learning the all important messages of Bhagawan Baba.

**My Sense Control:** We must control the five inner senses and the five external senses. Our Lord Sathya Sai says through Balavikas, that for realizing Spirituality we need to practice six qualities. They are

1. Good Behavior
2. Good Intelligence
3. Always follow truth
4. Discipline
5. Devotion &
6. Duty

Our Lord says that he who follows these 6 qualities will progress spiritually. When I was 48 years old, I taught Balavikas to the boys and girls for 4 years. I have learned about these six qualities for spiritual progress at my 48<sup>th</sup> year. But when I introspected myself of these 6 qualities in me, I felt

happy for practicing them since my childhood. I realized that I have grown up big with these 6 qualities, persisting with them even today, and that I will continue to do so until my last breath.

**What is Spirituality?** Does Spirituality mean 'Seeing God' and participating in religious rituals? No. Our sweet lord says that the real meaning of spirituality is to realize our mistakes on our own. When I realized this important truth about spirituality, I felt very ecstatic. Yes. Every man must realize his follies on his own and must make amends to quit them. In this context, practice of these 6 good qualities helps man to achieve his goals in leaps and bounds. But today, what man is doing? He is not making an effort to find his own faults but instead is very much interested to find faults in others. The more he gets rid of his weaknesses; he will become that much stronger. As long as he finds faults in others, he will become that much weaker. This must be avoided. Thus for practicing these six good qualities, most of the time all my senses are under my control.

**My Proximity with our Lord:** Our mind generally goes after the external worldly things. It never shows interest towards God. So some effort must be put to bring our mind focused on God. But my strongest desire is to see God. Because of this strong desire, I never lost track of God as long as I am conscious. This enabled me to stay in close proximity of the Lord, ever since I was 5 - 6 years.

**My Divine Fervor:** After I completed my M Sc, the divine Fervor in me has started gaining ground and my desire to see God strengthened. I was a realized soul when I completed 25 years of age. I completed my M Sc in February, 1982. Before realization, I persisted with my external outlook. I am very much eager to see God physically. The Divine Fervor rose to such heights that I communicated to God thus, "Oh God, right from my childhood, I had a strong desire to see you. I strictly abided to your rules and regulations. I respected elders. I never committed mistakes knowingly. As far as possible, I got habituated to good things in life. I voluntarily helped many souls. I never spoke bad words. As far as possible, I never entertained even bad thoughts. I never created problems for others. I treated everybody as a child of God. I never treated as high or low towards anybody around me. I led a life free from anger, jealousy and hatred. I never expected anything from others. I enjoyed seeing others happy. I had no ego or Greed. Even I am free from worldly desires." With such thoughts rolling on in my mind my Divine Fervor rose to new heights. At that time my wife was pregnant and hence I could practice celibacy during this period. With Divine Fervor, I travelled 7000kms of pilgrimage trips covering north, east and south India all alone. During these temple visits, I always prayed God for a GOOD CHILD.

**God Realisation:** The Divine Fervor in me rose to such heights that the time has almost become stagnant. I used to lament for God Realisation. But, one fine moment, God's formless attributes have been manifested in me. That formless state of Divinity is infinite, Blissful, beyond comprehension and beyond words of description. I was actually waiting to see the physical form of God, but I realized the Formless attributes of the Lord. Immediately for a few moments I became upset, annoyed and felt uncomfortable. But this lasted only for a few moments only. And thereafter it is all Bliss – eternal and everlasting. This Bliss cannot be explained. What is the reason for such a Blissful state? Man with his finite approach always anticipates only 'finite returns'. But what is in store for us by God? 'Infinite returns'. I actually expected to see God on a physical plane. This was my finite goal. In good olden days, I have heard that sages used to commit penance for many years and in return they could see God for a few moments, and later God disappeared after granting them some boons. Even in my case I expected the same from God. But God is great, kind and compassionate. He always blesses his devotees with his infinite attributes.

**God Realisation and His assignment to me:** After realizing His infinite attributes, I have made a U-Turn approach in my life. I wanted to see God physically, but after His realization I was in a position to see God in all human beings. I wanted to see ONE GOD but I could see INFINITE GODS. I want to serve the lord on a physical plane, but he enabled me to see Him in all human beings. Enjoying this state, Swami Vivekananda prophesied, 'Service to man as Service to God'. Enjoying this state, Mahatma Gandhi could realize Non-violence as a most potent weapon to win freedom for India. Though Rama is a God, he stood as a symbol of Righteousness to the humanity. Enjoying this state Jesus and Lord Krishna has given their message of Love to the humanity. Enjoying this state Gautama

Buddha has shown the humanity, the path of Peace. Enjoying this state, Sri Aadi Sankara and many great souls have guided the humanity with many eternal truths. At that time, I completed 25 years of age and I am full of physical and mental energies. From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely prayed God to make me a TOOL in his Divine Mission. 'REDUCE THE CORRUPTION IN MAN', is the assignment of God. Having grasped the task, I questioned myself, what is the way to achieve it? 'IMPROVE GOOD QUALITIES IN MAN AND REDUCE BAD QUALITIES IN MAN'. This is the response from God. Based on this message, my life rolled on for another 30 years.

To reduce corruption in man, I know it is possible only through God. But still I am making my effort. I am not at all ambitious to attain greater heights by achieving this goal. I know I am very much limited. I realized that even God is hiding my confidentiality from the outside world. Knowing my limits, I am just passing on my life. But I had a number of Divine experiences in my life. If some of these experiences are personal, then there are some other experiences which are not personal. But those individuals who are involved in those experiences are very popular figures in the country. God's deeds are indeed very strange. They cannot be grasped quickly. What is the reason for experiencing those non-personal experiences? Having experienced such non personal experiences, it will be my duty to express them out to the world, when the time comes. The proceedings will follow the track as laid down by the Divine Will. After all, we are mortals.

God takes human form to guide man from corruption. He who reaches God and follows his advice will change into good individuals. Even today in India, men change into better individuals based on Bhagavad Gita, Koran, Bible, Guru Granth Sahib, Zend Avista, etc. Today's men follow Rama's path of righteousness, Buddha's principles of peace, Krishna's and Jesus path of Love. India under the noble leadership of Mahatma Gandhi has won the freedom for India and the entire humanity is following the non-violence path of Mahatma Gandhi. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Ramana Maharshi, Aravind Ghosh, Sri AdiSankara, etc have brought the spirituality to the levels of one and all. Shirdi Sai and Parthi Sai, through their message and miracles have clearly manifested the Divine attributes of the unseen Lord. Very soon the third incarnation of the trio, the Prema Sai will be in our Midst. When an incarnation advents on this earth in human form, all must reach his proximity. All those who have no idea about an incarnation, must read the available literature and pray the almighty to reach Prema Sai's proximity. Without the Divine Permission, it is said that no one can reach an Incarnation. Even to reach an Incarnation we need good credentials. So make an effort for such credentials.

**Celibacy, a need for God's Proximity:** I stated earlier that I practiced Celibacy when my wife was pregnant. As per religious texts, celibacy is to lead a pure life, avoiding contact with the opposite sex. But Bhagawan Sathya Sai inferred it as "Living with God" is celibacy. Celibacy in Telugu is called Brahmacharya. 'Brahma' means 'God', and 'charya' means 'living with'. Thus the meaning of Brahmacharya in Telugu is "Living with God". Doctors advised us to be careful after diagnosing my wife's pregnancy. Since then I practiced celibacy on a physical and mental plane. During this time my divine Fervor rose to new heights. In August, 1983 I was blessed with God realization. In that blessed state I remained for many days. I felt as if I am not on this planet Earth, meaning my physical means have been greatly reduced. During this realized state, I went to Puttaparthi to see the Lord Almighty in physical form. In August, 1983 a 5-day Balvikas conference was held in Puttaparthi. I attended the conference as a sevadal. I was still relishing the realized state. At that time when I was in Puttaparthi, I had a dialogue with my Indweller.

My Indweller: Have you ever been to Tirupathi to have the darshan of the Lord Venkateshwara?

Me : Yes. I had the darshan of Lord Venkateshwara at Tirupathi.

My Indweller: Do you have the darshan, immediately after climbing the seven hills?

Me : No Swami.

My Indweller: If so, when did you have the darshan of Lord Venkateshwara?

Me : Immediately after climbing the seven hills, Lord's Darshan will not materialize. We have to travel another kilometer or so, take a holy bath and only then we can enter the sanctum sanctorum to have the darshan of the Lord Venkateshwara.

My Indweller: All the while you were of the opinion that I am delaying you the God realization for you. Atleast now, have you realized the reason for the delay.

Me : Yes, I understood Swami.

God's Love is eternal, infinite, pure, unshulline. To realize such a Divine state, my handicap is Celibacy, which I practiced when my wife was pregnant. Such a divine state has manifested in me no sooner I practiced celibacy.

**A few important features about God's Proximity:** Paramahansa Yogananda in his "Autobiography of a Yogi" has stated that his parents used to treat marital relationship as a very pious act. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa even though married, remained a celibate throughout life. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa has advised that man can marry after God Realisation and still lead a Blissful life. And coming to Mahatma Gandhi, he wrote that he practiced celibacy since he was 37 years old. We know from many incidents about Gandhi's sense control. All acts of sense control will enhance Purity of mind. Gandhi related another incident in his autobiography. Those were the days of his marriage time, when a member of his family was in a serious condition. Daily one of his family member used to look after this sick person during night, on a priority basis. Gandhi wrote that during those days, he used to feel uncomfortable attending to this sick person. Gandhi, a noble soul, is good enough to express his weakness during those days. Great men accept their mistakes voluntarily and readily. All religious texts accept participation in sex between a wife and a husband, to be a pious act, for sustaining the human race. In this context, I shall express my personal state here. Just like Gandhi, I too had the habit of chanting God's name 'Rama' since my childhood. I was so much habituated to chanting God's name that I enjoyed physical and mental healing. Chanting has become a part of my life, so much so that I used to chant his name even during intercourse with an aim to have 'Good Children'. When we learned of my wife's pregnancy, we felt very happy. During this time I Practiced Celibacy, meditation and a righteous life. My Divine Fervor rose to such heights that I made a personal request to God, 'Oh God, Please be born to us as our son'. Pat came the reply from within. 'I am in Puttaparthi'. I felt ashamed for my request and claimed for His pardon.

**About my Equanimity:** Dualities form a part of our human life. God has provided these dualities for man's progress. It is not possible for any man to escape these dualities on a wordly plane. It is these dualities which separate man from animals. If but for these dualities, a mother will not love her child. There are pros and cons for every coin. Man likes one of these dualities, and dislikes the other side of it. But man must accept these dualities with equanimity. Only then he attains peace within. Man in this mundane world cannot sit idle. He has to do some work for his maintenance. Man will face these dualities in all aspects of his life. Night follow Day. Happiness follows Sorrow. Profit and loss are both sides of a business. In summer we prefer cold weather and in winter we prefer warm weather. So man must get accustomed to these dualities of life. These dualities teach man the best lessons of his life. So man must never avoid these dualities, but instead accept them, win over them and go beyond the dualities.

Right from my childhood, I got accustomed to these dualities of life. It was my loving mother who best guided me to equanimity in those younger days. My mother has advocated me with a master plan. 'Dualities are a part of our life. Both pros and cons are for our Good only. So we must accept both for our Good'. This is one of the greatest lessons of my life. Right from my childhood, my attitude is to obey the orders of the elders with ease. 'Act now' was my policy since my younger days. I never delayed good things in life. As I grew old, after seeing the world around, I must convey thanks to my attitude.

He who develops equanimity will be aware of many general things. He will face any situation that may come his way. He will never neglect anything in life. He will lead an ideal life, leaving aside idle life.

He who avoids dualities cannot make decisions. He who has gone beyond these dualities will promptly make decisions. Right from my younger days, I used to take prompt or spontaneous decisions. Prompt or Spontaneous decisions are made from the heart, and not from the mind. For my prompt decisions, I was labelled as 'very anxious'. I analysed such remarks. Time will decide the efficiency of such decisions. With time all my decisions proved correct, and all those comments proved wrong. This means that my integrity has won over others comments. This enabled me to stand firm on my decisions.

**Developing interest in Good Things of life:** We all must develop interest in the good things of life. By implementing good things of life, we gain a lot of knowledge, says Lord Krishna through his Bhagavad Gita. Shirdi Sai has advised mankind to develop this interest towards good qualities along with patience (i.e., Sraddha and Saburi). We must develop interest in all good acts, says Sathya Sai. He quoted two simple examples to focus this point. In good old days there were no gas stoves. During those days cooking was done on firewood. Once, a mother while cooking food had to visit her neighbor urgently. So she called her daughter and told her to complete the cooking process. This mother has set everything ready for her daughter to complete the remaining cooking process. This girl can easily complete the cooking. But after promising her mother to look after the cooking, this girl left the cooking place. As a result the firewood has stopped burning, and the cooking was not completed. When this mother returned back home from her neighbor, she found the task incomplete. This shows the negligence of her daughter to the assigned task. Another mother, in the same situation as above, called her daughter and assigned the task of cooking to her daughter. Here the daughter remained at the cooking spot until the cooking is complete. Both these examples show the difference of attitudes, these girls exhibited. This is another great lesson for all of us to grasp. We must attend to our work with attention and patience. When a given task fails, our elders generally don't accept excuses. Why? Failures result due to lack of effort. He who completes the given task in hand will gain knowledge, but on the other hand, he who lacks interest and puts no efforts will not gain anything.

Pain and pleasure are a part of our life. We do some things with pleasure whereas some other things with pain. In our life we face many situations. We must bear patience to face any situation. This patience will bring out the best in us to help us in our efforts.

For me, there were no second thoughts. Having no second thoughts is the best credentials a man must possess to complete the given task quite effortlessly. Right from my early age, I had unity of my thoughts, words and actions and performed many acts beyond my age. I shall quote here a couple of them.

When I was a young boy, we used to stay in Municipal colony, Malakapet, Hyderabad. Our relatives stayed in the same colony, but at the other end of our colony. They purchased 4 quintals of rice for each of our families to meet rice requirements for one year. Our 4 quintals of rice was unloaded at our relative's house. Rice was packed in 100kgs bags. In those days, to bring those 4 quintals of rice to our home, a rickshaw had to make two trips, and for each trip, Rs 2/- will be charged. My mother was afraid of asking those four rupees from my father. 100kgs Rice bags means, it is the duty of the male elders to shift these 4 quintals of rice from one place to other. But I took this task all to myself. I had a bicycle. I shifted the entire rice all by myself. How? Very simple, I made 8 trips, carrying 50 kgs of rice per trip. The task was over. I have taken up this act quite naturally. What motivated me to do this act? I want to save four rupees for my mother. I still remember this act. This is God's boon for me. Thoughts, words and deeds are God's resources to every man. When there is unity among the three, we can work wonders.

In 1968, when I was in my fourth class, gas stove replaced Kerosene stove in our home. Before gas stove, cooking was done on kerosene stoves. My mother used to get up at 6.00 AM. But I used to get up at 5.00 AM, study for some time and later by the time my mother woke up, I used to

bring milk, prepare tea for our family, boil the milk and put hot water on kerosene stove for rice preparation. That means, at that young age when I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> class, I used to do all these acts quite naturally on my own. This may sound strange, but this was true. In Bhagawan Baba's tips to parents, Baba quoted that those parents who voluntarily receive help from the children can be compared to God giving them boons daily. When I read this quote from Baba, I felt ecstatic. This quote will really encourage all children to help their parents in all possible ways.

From my childhood, I feel comfortable doing any act. For me all acts look simple. Nothing was impossible for me. As far as possible I do all my acts, without depending upon others. Even today, I do all my household works by myself.

**Receiving Acknowledgments from our Indweller:** For each and every act we do, we receive acknowledgement from our Indweller. For doing good deeds we receive satisfaction from within, and for our bad deeds, we receive dissatisfaction from within.

Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography is named 'My Experiments with Truth'. Truth means God. That means Gandhi experimented with God. We must always follow truth while doing any or all of our acts. Having experimented with such truths, Gandhi realised the validity of such truths. Gandhi is a God realised soul. It is these credentials which enabled him to realise the path of non-violence.

Nobody loves man as God does. Man must realise this truth. Our Indweller is just like a school, a college guiding the student till the end of his life. A student joins a school to get educated. Likewise, a man will realize the purpose of his life, if he follows his Indweller. Our Indweller helps us in all possible ways. It is this Indweller who guides man from a finite stage to an infinite state.

Generally we find that good students maintain good relations with their teachers. Students who are abide to their teachers and good in studies will maintain closeness with their teachers. Such students will not hesitate to clear their doubts from their teachers. But on the other hand, if the students disobey their teachers, they will shun their teachers. They cannot clear their doubts from them. Likewise, if we follow a good path in our life, we will take the guidance of our Indweller. If otherwise, when we neglect our Indweller we will waste our human birth.

**Questions and Answers:** Generally a Question and answer session will require minimum 2 men. But what if it involved only one man? Involving one man we can entertain 3 situations.

There will be an eminent man in his respective field. He will make a self enquiry about his subject. He will pose questions and also obtain the answers by himself, related to his field of study.

Then we have a devotee. What a devotee do? He will pray God, who is residing in his heart. All devotees make this prayer a habit. The devotees feel happy when their prayers are fulfilled. All the devotees generally use prayer as a medium of contact between them and God. But all the devotees of God may or may not follow a good path and hence will fail to establish faith in their Indweller.

This third category with their good behavior will maintain a close rapport and feel comfortable with their Indweller. Who can maintain closeness with their Indweller? It requires a pure mind, a broad heart, a loving medium with high aims to gain the confidence of the Indweller. Our Indweller is a great all rounder. He can help us in all possible ways. Indweller's guidance is always beyond our expectations and all obedient students will acknowledge such guidance.

**We need a Sai Mandir for Every Village:** It was 14-1-1987. On that day, in sivam, Hyderabad, a refreshing course was conducted from 9.00 AM to 6.15 PM. I was in Hyderabad at that time. On my father's orders, I attended this get together. All speakers spoke well. At the end, Dr. Narasinga Rao has requested for suggestions to improve the service activities of the Organization. I closed my eyes and prayed my Indweller to help me with a solution in this regard. Immediately Mother Theresa entered my vision, and with this a dialogue started thus.

Me : What is this? I have seen Mother Theresa as a solution. How can it be?

My Indweller : Where are the Mother Theresa's Organizations located?

Me : Mother Theresa's activities are being held in cities and Towns all over India.

My Indweller : How many are getting benefitted by these activities?

Me : Around 1% of the people may be getting benefitted by these activities.

My Indweller : In order to raise the levels to 100% needy people, what is the way?

Me : Every village must have one Sri Sathya Sai Service center. Only then 100% of the needy can be benefitted from these activities.

My Indweller : 'YES'.

This question – answer session was over. After giving a 2 minutes gap, Dr. Narasinga Rao has asked the response for his suggestion. 5 – 6 hands were raised. I am the youngest of the lot to raise my hand. 3 seniors were selected to make their suggestions. It was 6.15 PM, and Dr. Narasinga Rao closed the session. Myself along with a couple of others could not express our views. But at that moment, I have taken a decision. In future, whenever I construct a house, in that house I shall make way for a Sai Mandir too in it. In 1992, we have constructed a house at Ravulapalem. By His Divine Grace, we have provided the Sai Mandir in our house.

**Who will act as Caretakers of our Society?:** I have completed 30 years. With my M Sc I could not settle down either with a job or in a business. 'God has given me an analytical Brain and an excellent body to take care of myself. But even still I could not settle down in my life'. I communicated thus to my Indweller. It was a heartfelt plea to my Indweller, but still my eyes choked with tears. In a moment my Indweller responded, "If everybody is interested in his earnings, then who will act as caretakers of the society"? With this unexpected response from my Indweller, my joy knew no bounds. My choked eyes changed into tears of Joy. At that moment, it was confirmed that my body is acting as His tool.

If everything goes on well with my analytical brain and my all round physical capabilities, then I might have easily settled down in my life. If that is the case, then I may not be writing this book.

**Satyajit:** Bhagawan Baba moved very freely on his legs until he was 70 years. Before the age of 14 years, Baba faced some physical problems. But again during his last 14 years, though he is the supreme entity, yet with his human body, he suffered a hip fracture, because of a fall in the bathroom. This is all His divine play. Since then Baba could not walk freely on His legs. During this time, Satyajit got an opportunity to serve Baba. Who on earth can be blessed with such an opportunity to be present 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 12 months a year with Bhagawan Baba. This indeed is a very rare opportunity. And what are the credentials required for such an opportunity? Very high divine credentials required. Whenever I hear of Satyajit, my heart used to relish Satyajit's services to the Lord. One day I casually asked my lord for the credentials of Satyajit, for enjoying this rare opportunity. My request was answered.

I went to Puttaparthi for 2013 Sivarathri. Ever since Bhagawan Baba's Maha Samadhi, there was an English lecture daily held in the conference hall from 10.30 – 11.30 AM. Whenever I was in parthy, I never missed a single lecture. So as usual, on Sivarathri, I went to attend the lecture. To my surprise the speaker was none other than Satyajit himself. This was one of the best lectures I have heard. I shall brief here two events of Satyajit's speech.

Satyajit studied in Baba's college for 5 years. Until his last year in PG, Satyajit never had any close acquaintance with Baba. In his PG final year, Satyajit had played a small role in the 'Suradass' play. It was during the rehearsal of this play, Satyajit got an opportunity to come close with Baba. The summary of the Suradass drama is as follows. 'For the entire humanity if God is the Birth Place then

this mundane world is the in-law's place. What our women do when they enter their in-law's house? They will never forget what they have learned from their parents. With their behavior they will bring glory to their parents. Likewise, we are all the embodiments of the Divine. With this realization we must lead a spiritual life, having entered this world'. With this message the drama concluded.

A few months after enacting the Suradass drama, Baba went to Bangalore, along with Satyajit. At Bangalore, Baba went to a devotee's house with Satyajit. In that house there was an 80 year old lady who expressed lot of love and affection to Baba. All the members of the house followed in the footsteps of this grand old lady. While returning Baba told Satyajit thus, 'You have seen this old lady now. She has a lot of love and devotion for Baba. In this house everybody obeyed her words with great respect. Do you know why? This old lady, after her marriage has never been back to her parent's house even once. She sacrificed all her life for the wellbeing of her family'. When Satyajit heard this information about this old woman from Baba, he immediately recollected the summary of Suradass drama. Suradass treated God as his birthplace and this world as his in-laws place. Once we step into this world we will return back to our parents place only after death. "If Suradass drama is the theory, then the old woman's life is the practical". This Suradass drama and the old woman had a profound impact on Satyajit's life.

**Second Experience:** Great men reveal their mistakes for the benefit of mankind. As they lack ego they reveal such incidents. This is a great lesson for all of us to grasp. During the final days of Satyajit's student career, Baba used to give darshan at 2.30 PM. After darshan, interviews followed. Baba ordered Satyajit to be present for the interviews. As a result, Satyajit got permission to skip the last class, to be present in the Mandir, to be in the interview room. As this was the daily routine, Satyajit one day was late by 10 minutes. By the time Satyajit came to the Mandir, interview has already started. Satyajit entered the interview room, 10 minutes late. Immediately Baba changed the topic to Satyajit's delay. In the interview room there were around 20 devotees. Baba in a loud voice was explaining what all Satyajit has seen from the college premises and to whom he has talked on his way to the Mandir. Satyajit was very upset. Satyajit felt that Baba is insulting him in front of 20 devotees. After Baba stopped, Satyajit mustered some courage and in a pleasing manner requested Baba thus, 'Baba, because of our weaknesses we will commit such mistakes. You must drive these weaknesses out from us'. Immediately Baba responded Satyajit in a reprimanded tone, 'I am not your washerman'. Satyajit realized his follies and realised the truth. The truth is, 'God has given man the intelligences and a very broad spiritual heart. Apart from that, God himself resided in every human being as an Indweller to guide man in his spiritual progress. Under the context everyman must make his own effort to realise his own lapses to quit them. Without making such effort, it is not proper on the part of man to depend upon God to relieve man from his weaknesses'. Satyajit had a great lesson, which he shared with all of us.

Sitting in my home, I conveyed to my Indweller, 'Please enable me to grasp the divine credentials of Satyajit'. My Indweller has responded me with this lecture.

**Adopt an Orphan:** In 1982, the Hyderabad Sevadal Convener was Mr. Subrahmanyam. He wished that every sevadal must know Baba's messages. With this idea, he put forward a novel method to implement it. Baba's message is contained in all his Vahini series. Every month, all sevadal members must hear the message of one Vahini book. He selected 'Sathya Sai Vahini' as a maiden attempt. Three sevadal members every month will be selected to go through the contents, and explain the contents to all the sevadal for 1 hour. I was selected as one of the 3 selected speakers. I have read the 'Sathya Sai vahini'. It gave a lot of information about the spiritual progress of man. I was 24 years old at that time. As I was reading this book, Baba was explaining how we must spend the 24 hours of the day - "6 hours for sleep, 6 hours for daily routine, 6 hours for sustenance and maintenance act and 6 hours for service to humanity". After reading this, I came to a pause and asked Baba thus,

Myself : Working for four hours in the organization, they are treated as Active sevadal. But Baba, you are suggesting us to do six hours of service daily. After joining the organization, it is possible to do service for 4 hours per week, but how is it possible to do six hours of service on daily basis. I am not a doctor. If I were to be a doctor, I

would have served for six hours daily, but as an ordinary man, without a professional qualification, how can I serve for six hours?

My Indweller : ‘Adopt an Orphan’.

Spontaneously after receiving this response I made this following plea, ‘Baba, so far I had no children. If my first child is a son, then I can adopt a girl child as my second child. If that does not materialize, then I may not implement your advice’. At that time my wife was still not a pregnant. At that moment I have taken a decision to adopt a girl as our 2nd child if only our first child happens to be a son.

All the three sevadal members have expressed the contents of Sri Sathya Sai Vahini, as per the schedule. On one occasion, Swami treated his Divine message as mango juice, and his miracles as mango leaves. This only show how important is Baba’s message for the humanity. All those who heard the message of Sathya Sai Vahini expressed happiness over the contents. But strangely enough, it was not continued further. This program which started with Sathya Sai Vahini ended with Sathya Sai Vahini. What does this mean to me? Can I take it for granted that through this program, Baba has enabled me to go through the contents of Sri Sathya Sai Vahini and thereby directed me to adopt a girl as my 2<sup>nd</sup> child.

**Man must do 6 hours of Service:** After reading the book ‘Sathya Sai Vahini’, a few months later I had another question.

Me : ‘Rendering Service for 4 hours per week through the organization is considered as an active Sevadal Member. But Baba, you are advising us to do six hours of service daily. There is a huge gap between the organization’s policy and your suggestion. Please clarify me on this point’. I prayed to lord sincerely.

My Indweller: We go to a school and a college to get educated. After completing our education, we settle down in our life with our education. In the same way, all those who join the organization must render a minimum of 4 hours of service per week. When they get habituated to 4 hours of service per week, then they can shift to 6 hours of service daily, without the involvement of the organization.

I felt very happy for this response and conveyed my thanks to the almighty.

**Not just 6 hours, man can do 24 hours of service per day:** I have not put forth any questions to my Indweller nor have I prayed him. But in 2006, my Indweller voluntarily conveyed the message that I must construct a building that can serve the needs of ten people, based on my experience. Based on this message, all our local organization members have constructed the ‘AstadhalaSevaPushpam’ to render 8 service activities under one roof. By his grace, all the activities are going on smoothly. There are 9 DJP boys and 22 deaf and dumb boys and girls in our ashram. They stay in this ashram for 24 hours. We are taking care of their food, health and education. So in this way, through our ashram we are daily doing 24 hours of service to them. In the past, I questioned my Indweller if I can do 6 hours of service daily? But today it is He, who has given us an opportunity to do 24 hours of service daily. This shows that our Lord is taking special care on us to implement this 24 hours service on daily basis. In the near future, the 24 hours of service on daily basis will prove as an ideal platform for others to follow.

**Our Mind is Very Powerful:** Human life is very precious. To such a human body God blessed man with a wonderful mind. Such a mind can not be replaced. But man learn how to make good use of such a wonderful mind right from his childhood. All those men who are habituated with good behavior and habits; such a mind will help man as a good friend; else will serve as an enemy. Hence we all must give top priority over our behavior.

**Elders Role in mending our mind:** When we attain an age of five or six, we start remembering all things. But the Psychiatrists say that our mind will remember things from the age of one and a half

years old. This means that seeds of our behavior are sown at that tender age. So, the behavior of parents and elders will have a profound impact on our children. Parents must not utter false even for fun sake. The inmates of our house must keep away from bad habits. When the young babies trouble their mothers in eating food, these mothers frighten their wards with animals or ghosts to make them eat some food. In this way they must not frighten their wards. If the parents make oral abuses over each other, then their wards will get up fighting, warns Baba. Such wards will get habituated to unmaturing reasoning. Such a mind will turn into their enemy.

Not only our parents, even our neighbours will play an important role in building his mental abilities. We all are a part of our Society. As such, all our parents and elders must always express love and solidarity towards our Society. Instead of Love if the elders express hatred and anxiety towards the society, then our children's minds will have negative impact. Hence they become an easy prey to the six sins. A mind with six sins will be impure and will be of no use to us. Such an impure mind will turn our own foe and it is this foe which will cause a great damage to us. But how many of us will realize the fact that our own mind is our greatest enemy. A pure mind will serve us our best friend.

In my life I have 5 good friends. They are my body, my mind, my intelligences, my spiritual heart and God. My body never succumbed to idleness. It always supported in my mission. My mind is very pure and it always assisted me in perfectly achieving the given task to completion. My intelligences always worked beyond the reach of my senses. My spiritual heart is broad enough to reside my God. With these five good friends, what more can I aspire for?

**Realizing the need for Good qualities at a young age of six:** In our daily life we make many pilgrimage trips in order to gain good knowledge about our ancient traditions and culture.

I still consider the pilgrimage trip that I made as a 6 year old, as the most relishing trip ever. My younger brother is seven years younger to me. When I made this trip he was not yet born. Hence I claim that I was six years old when I made this trip. I have just now stated that our mind is very powerful, and we must mend it as our friend. In the year 1965 summer holidays, we came to our maternal grandmother's home at Penugonda, west godavari. This tour has taken place during this time. A brief summary about this trip. M. Sri Rami Reddy is my Grandmother's younger brother. His daughter Parvathi's marriage is fixed on 11<sup>th</sup> May that year. A group of 30 men and women including children got ready to leave for the marriage to be held in Hospet, Bellary. Until then I don't remember having cried for anything. But on this occasion, I started crying to go along with them. My mother refused permission, as I never left her before. But I cried a lot. Seeing this a few relatives supported me, but on one condition, that I must not cry for my mother. They even warned me that even if I cry, there will be no one to bring me back to my mother. I accepted to their condition. During those days there was a bus to Guntur at 5.00am. We all reached Guntur by this bus. I remembered having stood in this bus till Guntur along with some of our relatives. But my legs have not ached. From Guntur, we all reached Bellary through a Passenger Train. And at the Groom's house, I made an impact at the dining table. They used to serve a lot of things with love and I used to accept all items served. All the others used to complete their meals, By that time, my stomach used to be full, but my meals plate is still half full. I used to express a pathetic face at them. They laughed at my plight and used to excuse me. This trend continued for all food sessions during my stay there. After the marriage and during our stay there at, we have toured for two complete days all the famous temples at Hospet. During these two days, I was the only child to walk on feet. The remaining children took their parents help. Some parents even offered a lift to me. But how can a leader take a lift? During those two days, I stayed in the front as if I am leading from the front. For not causing any problems to the elders, I was again remembered. And now we are on our return journey. As a habit I used to stay in front. At the time of boarding the train, the marriage party was split into two batches – the Bride's party and the Groom's party – for the sake of convenience. As the train started moving the Bride's party missed my presence from them. But they were not worried. They were confident that I will be with the Groom's party. To check this, in the next station, a relative came to me and upon seeing me claimed, "You are our representative of the Bride's party leading the Groom's party to Penugonda. Very Good." After reaching Penugonda, all the elders who attended the marriage made it a point to praise my behavior to my mother. So the importance of

being good was acknowledged by me at that very young age. Thus my desire to see God at that young age was well supported by my good behavior from that tender age. It was all God's Grace.

**A Guest is our God:** Our elders preach us that our Mother, Father, Teacher and a Guest as our God. But how come a Guest be our God? In what way he will benefit us? A Guest will build our reputation in our Society, says Baba. Hence we must respect all men of our Society as our guests.

**From Meditation to Samadhi:** In 1982, during my 24<sup>th</sup> year, I started Meditation. During this time, my divine Fervor was on an increase. Before starting Meditation, I have read Bhagawan Baba's 'Dhyana Vahini'. I realised that I possessed all the pre-requisites for Meditation i.e., I have no physical desires. The process of 'Jyothi Meditation' was briefly discussed in that book.

I used to get up at 4 AM for Meditation, lit a lamp (Jyothi) and started Jyothi Meditation. 15 days passed, but I could not progress. 15 days later when I used to sit for meditation, I started hearing the Primal Sound AUM, deep within me. This was a very refreshing experience for me. From the next day, I stopped lighting a lamp and showed more interest to hear the Primal sound AUM during meditation. Only in silence, one can hear the Primal sound AUM, the voice of God. So for the sake of this silence, I shifted Meditation from 4 AM to 3.30 AM and a little later to 3AM. Daily I used to sit for around 30-45 minutes during meditation. I have no desires and I never checked my meditation time even once during this 4 year period. And in the 4 years, I missed meditation on 3 or 4 days and felt very miserable for missing the meditation.

I was a God realised soul, a year later after starting meditation. During this year, I have realised a few of my lapses on a mental plane and could overcome them. It is easy for anyone to overcome physical lapses than to overcome mental lapses. It took some time to overcome lapses on a mental plane. During my younger days, my mother's advice to take everything on a positive note has greatly helped me to reconcile with the dualities of life. I shall present here my mental lapse which I overcome during my meditation. One day while I was meditating my Indweller advised me to 'Think of everyone's Well Being'. Until then I used to think of my Well being only. As I am making my own effort, I will be naturally thinking of my own success. So for a few days, it was not possible for me to think of everyone's Well Being. But once I achieved this, I felt great joy and bliss. What is God Realisation? To see God in one and all is God Realisation. So in this way, a few of my lapses on the mental plane have been overcome by His Grace. After 25 years, I had God Realisation.

After God Realisation, I continued Meditation for another 3 years. One day as usual I completed my meditation. I heard my Indweller suggesting, 'You need not do any more Meditation'. I have never in my thoughts expected such a response from my Indweller. So I continued my meditation for another 2-3 days. In the past I felt restless for missing my meditation, but now I am feeling much more restlessness for continuing my meditation. 'For whose sake you are doing this Meditation? Is it for your sake or is it for Public sake?' my Indweller asked me. 'I must do meditation for my sake only and not for others sake. But if somebody asks me why I have stopped meditation, what authentic reply can I give them. So Lord please provide me with a suitable answer. Pleading so, I have decided to quit meditation. That was August 1986. A day after I stopped my meditation, I received that month's Sanathana Sarathi. I have read the Baba's message on the last cover page. I got the answer and felt ecstatic. The message was very simple. 'Everyone must start Physical meditation and continue it till they reached the Samadhi state'. What is Samadhi? 'To be in tune with the Lord as long as he is awake is Samadhi state. After attaining Samadhi state there is no need for physical Meditation. What a strange coincidence that I got this message on the very next day I stopped my physical meditation. What can I infer? Can I take it for granted that Bhagawan Baba has sent this message directly for me? Here again after reading this message I learned that I have progressed from my state of physical meditation to a Samadhi state. I felt very blissful for this progress.

During day or night, when silence prevails around me, I hear the primal sound AUM. Very recently, I read 'Ekam Sat'. In this book, it was written that in good old days the great sages used to contemplate on this primal sound AUM. This state is not new for me. So during my life, I used to face

situations like this, where in the contents resonanced with my experiences. I used to relish reading such information and immediately convey my gratitude to my Indweller.

## 04. INDWELLER HELPED IN SOLVING MY DOUBTS

Kinship with our Lord will be Blissful. We will be discussing a variety of issues with our Indweller. What are those good things? They can be many. Really speaking when we have spiritual knowledge in addition to the spiritual experiences we can discuss a lot of things with our Indweller. During this dialogue with our Indweller sometimes we will get replies immediately, but for some issues He will definitely arrange for an answer at a later date. And when we receive such answers at that appropriate moment, we will feel ecstatic. I shall narrate here a few such incidents.

**Who is that third Person?** I have read both the biographies of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa passed away on 16-8-1886. Three days prior to his demise nobody except Swami Vivekananda was allowed into his room. This was mentioned in their biographies. We learn that Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa has transformed all his powers to Swami Vivekananda. After his Master's death Swami Vivekananda credited all his achievements to his Master for the rest of his life, at every nook and corner of the globe he travelled. When I read this, I have developed a doubt. 'How Sri Ramakrishna could transfer all his powers to Swami Vivekananda? How is this possible? I have never read nor heard that such a transfer of power has taken place in the history of spirituality. If this transfer of power was possible, then each and every great soul would have transferred his energies to his most ardent pupil. But this has never happened in the past. But here in this case, I have read that Sri Ramakrishna has transferred his energies to his ardent disciple Swami Vivekananda. Apart from that, it was also mentioned that nobody except Swami Vivekananda was allowed into his room in his last 3 days. That means there must have been a 'third person' in that room during those 3 days. This transfer of powers from Sri Ramakrishna to Swami Vivekananda might have been facilitated by this 'Third Person'. 'Who is that Third Person'? This was my doubt. A few years later, my maternal uncle Mr. Bapi Reddy, engineer, who worked at Dowleshwaram, gave me a copy of Shirdi Sai Charitra, Rajahmundry edition, on his own and asked me to read it. I have read this book. My doubt was cleared. In this book it was written that Sri Shirdi Sai has spent 3 days with Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. These dates matched Sri Ramakrishna's last 3 days. After reading this information, I felt ecstatic.

We all know that Shirdi Sai on one occasion has left his body, kept under the care of Mahalsapathi, and returned back to His body after 3 days. During those 3 days Mahalsapathi facing many odds could protect the body of Shirdi Sai. A few days later, Mahalsapathi lovingly asked Shirdi Sai about those 3 days. Shirdi Sai replied that He stayed with Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa during his last 3 days.

**Who is this Boy?** On 24-11-1926 Sri Aravind Ghosh has called all his disciples and told them that 'Krishna Consciousness has descended on Earth, and that the spiritual growth and progress of the world will be taken care of by Him'. After revealing this truth, Aravind Ghosh has handed over the ashram responsibilities to Mataji and went into 'silence'. I had heard this information through a radio program, seen this through a TV Program and read it in Aravind Ghosh's biography. When I read his biography it appeared to me that Mr. Aravind Ghosh did penance to bring that supreme consciousness to descend on earth. Sathya Sai Baba of Puttaparthi was born on 23-11-1926. This means Aravind Ghosh's prophecy of 'Krishna consciousness' is none other than the advent of Sri Sathya Sai Baba of Puttaparthi. Here again I had a doubt. After announcing that Krishna consciousness has descended on earth, why Aravind Ghosh has not made any attempts to reach Him? But instead why did he adopt to Silence? This doubt remained in me for many years. After Aravind Ghosh's retirement to silence, his ashram was closed for visitors on Thursdays. In this context, on one fine Thursday morning, a 14 year old boy visited his ashram. Aravind Ghosh, who was practicing silence till then, opened the gates, received this boy and after showing and explaining him the entire ashram has bid him farewell at the gate. All the while, Aravind Ghosh's disciples were pondering about this scenario. Who is this boy?

Who is this VIP? What happened to Aravind Ghosh's silence? As Aravind Ghosh was returning back to his room, one of his disciples asked him, who this boy was. Aravind Ghosh replied 'Sai Baba'. I have read this information in the Book, 'Light of Lights'. This book contained all the details of Sathya Sai Baba's meetings with all the spiritual giants of India. After reading this information, I felt very happy. My doubt was cleared. Sri Aravind Ghosh after announcing the advent of Krishna consciousness has not made any efforts to see Him. But Krishna Consciousness in the form of Sathya Sai Baba has made a personal visit to him.

**Divinity and Divine Aura:** "All the places where the Great Souls lived are very sacred". This information which illustrates this point is very special to me. This experience is related to Ramana Maharshi. Even Ramana Maharshi used to practice 'Silence'. "All those who visit and sit before him in silence will return back home after getting their doubts clarified and getting illumination. How the silence of Ramana Maharshi materialise such wonderful illumination? Many foreigners too stayed with Ramana Maharshi for months and sometimes years and wrote excellent spiritual books. I was surprised and astonished at this development. How is this possible?" I queried my Lord. In the year 2000, Chaitanya Museum was constructed in Puttaparthi by Sathya Sai's Chinese devotees. It was a wonderful museum, depicting 90 specimens showing Bhagawan Baba's Divinity. On a small plank it was written, 'In good old days, sages did penance for many years to see God. But those who see this Museum will realize who God is". The Goal of this museum is to guide humanity about Bhagawan Baba's Divinity.

In this museum, there was a pictorial display of Bhagawan Baba's Aura. 'Bhagawan Baba's pink colour Aura has spread all over Sai Kulwant Hall. Pink color aura represents Love. On careful examination of this Aura, two notable observations were made.

1. Bhagawan Baba's pink colour Aura was seen dissolving the black and red colour Auras of the devotees who are assembled in the Sai Kulwant Hall. This means black colour aura (Ignorance) and red colour aura (Anger) are being reduced in the presence of great men.
2. The Pink Aura which is emitted by Baba is entering all those who sat in Sai Kulwant Hall. On careful observation they have found out that the pink Aura in some cases is tracking back again into Baba. Why this is happening? On observation it was found that this pink Aura is retracing back from those individuals who are talking. This infers that observing silence is very important in the presence of great men. Both these observations were proved scientifically. The answer I am looking for has been obtained. If we just sit in silence before great men, our ignorance and Anger will be reduced. I felt very happy. Pink colour represents Love, Black colour the ignorance, Red Colour the Anger, Green colour the Eminence, Blue colour the Spirituality.

**God's history is named 'Sathyam Sivam Sundaram':** Sri Kasturi wrote Bhagawan Baba's biography. Kasturi served in Sri Ramakrishna mission before coming to Bhagawan Baba. Mr Kasturi was a history professor and a famous cartoonist too. It was he who has given the title 'Akasvani' to All India Radio. After his retirement, Kasturi has completely settled down at Puttaparthi and got the opportunity to write Bhagawan Baba's biography. Volume 1 was completed and it has to be given a title. In the interview room, Baba asked his devotees for a title to this book. A couple of titles were suggested by devotees. After hearing them Baba named it 'Sathyam Sivam Sundaram' and left the place. The moment Kasturi heard this title he went into ecstasy, whereas the other 20 devotees remained normal. All the devotees came out of the interview room and asked the reason for his ecstasy. Kasturi replied, 'In good old days, when Mr Kasturi was serving in the Sri Ramakrishna mission, he heard that God's history will be released as 'Sathyam Sivam Sundaram' and will be read widely throughout the globe. This prophecy was made by none other than Swami Vivekananda. Ever since then, Kasturi was awaiting to read this book. And when the final moment came, it was Kasturi who has penned the much awaiting book 'Sathyam Sivam Sundaram'. Hearing Kasturi's revelation everybody felt extreme bliss.

In this physical world man may earn lakhs and crores of wealth but he is never satisfied with all his possessions. But get habituated to kinship with our Lord and get such doubts cleared from the infinite Master. These experiences remain permanent and bless us with Eternal Bliss.

**Disappearance of Moles:** When I joined in the school for the first time, my parents gave the details of two moles, as my identification marks. They are 1) A scar near the left eye brow. 2) Two moles on the left hand palm. Apart from these identification marks I had two more moles on my body. But the first two moles have been recorded in my educational certificates.

I am of the opinion that the moles which appear at the time of birth will last until death. By the time I completed my M.Sc, I was running my 24<sup>th</sup> year. I got habituated to reading religious texts since then. One day I casually happened to come across a book related to the information of the body Moles. With a lot of curiosity I read the book.

It was written that those who have a mole on the sole of their right leg will make many pilgrim trips. By that time, I have travelled many places and hence I felt quite happy with the observation. For the mole present near the left eye brow, the impact was expressed positively. And after reading the results of the mole present on my right shoulder, I became very happy as it stated that impossible tasks can be achieved. So far so good. Lastly I have read the observations of the two moles present on my left hand palm. If two moles are present near each other, it expresses dual personality. After reading this information, initially I became upset and very sad. God realization is the goal of my life. After my MSc this desire has become very strong in me. In this context, when I read the information related to these two moles, I doubted if I will attain God Realisation in this birth. Should I lead this life both physically and spiritually throughout my life, without God Realisation? With a lot of Divine fervor, I prayed our Supreme Lord, thus. "These two moles which appeared at the time of my birth, will last till my death. But I cannot wait for God Realisation until my next birth. I must achieve God Realisation in this birth only. This is a Must". Praying thus, I decided to go forward. Very soon I have forgotten regarding these two moles. I have expressed that I have achieved God Realisation after my 25<sup>th</sup> year. Immediately after God Realisation, I have not recollected the information of the two moles. After God Realisation, after a lapse of few months, one day I casually happened to see my left hand palm. To my surprise, I have not seen the two moles on my left hand palm. What happened to those two moles? They were disappeared. My bliss knew no bounds. My Indweller has responded to my Divine fervor. What more can I say?

## 05. MY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

I had a number of Spiritual Experiences. I relish these experiences forever. As long as my body lasts I shall enjoy these experiences with eternal joy and bliss. I shall quote here a few such experiences.

**Sai Rama Krishna:** When my wife was pregnant I made a 7000 Km pilgrimage trip, during which I prayed for a good child – male or female. I have never prayed the child to be an engineer or a doctor. I thought a good child will be a man of good deeds. By that time I have read the biography of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. I was impressed by the spiritual effort of Sri Ramakrishna. No man on earth might have done such an intense spiritual effort. As a child, I liked Swami Vivekananda, but after reading this book, Sri Ramakrishna has become very dear to me. So if I am blessed with a son, I thought of christening him ‘Sai Rama Krishna’. ‘Sai’ is taken from Sathya Sai and Ramakrishna taken from Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. What if, if I am blessed with a girl child? My Mother’s name is ‘Suguna’ meaning ‘Good Attributes’. She stands true to her name. My mother-in-law’s name is ‘Annapurna’, the Goddess of food, who also stands true to her name. Based on their names I have decided to name her as Suguna + Poorna = SugunaPoorna. On 24-08-1983, our son was born at 7.25AM. His birth stars represented ‘Sathabisha’. Those who are born with this star must be christened with their first letter as ‘Sa, Su’. I have become extremely happy with this development. I felt that the supreme lord has accepted my proposal to name my son ‘Sai Rama Krishna’. When we were in Hyderabad, every Saturday evening we used to do Sai Bhajan. Around 15 – 20 gathered for the Bhajan. Among them was a gentleman named Mr. Sundaram, a SBH Bank officer, aged 45+, a bachelor, and a spiritual blended person. We informed him after the Bhajan, about my son’s birth. His immediate response was, ‘Budhavaaram puttaadu pedda buddhimanthudu avuthaadu’, meaning having born on a Wednesday he will be a very good boy. I prayed God for a good child and I got the Divine response from Sundaram’s words. He also added that he may get ‘Gold’ but not a ‘Wednesday’. His words are very true. My Paternal grandmother was still alive at that time. She had to give to her great grandson two gold ornaments. They are 1. Gold thread to be tied around his waist and 2.A Golden spoon. So irrespective of the day of my son’s birth, he will get these two gold ornaments. And coming to the naming ceremony, I told my father to name my son based on the birth stars, as it is our tradition. I told my father to name my son with the first letter as ‘Sa / Su’ based on Sathabisha star. My father has suggested, ‘Sundara Sai Rama Krishna Reddy’. Why such a big name, I asked my father. He has taken ‘Sundara’ from Mr.Sundaram, the SBH Bank officer, ‘Sai’ from Bhagawan Baba’s name and ‘Ramakrishna Reddy’ from my father-in-law’s name. Stating the name as big, I requested my father to cut short ‘Sundara’ from ‘Sundara Sai Rama Krishna Reddy’, which he obliged gracefully. So in this way my son was named, ‘Sai Rama Krishna Reddy’. Reddy is our surname.

Before my son’s birth I have named him ‘Sai Rama Krishna’. And as per the birth stars he has to be named with first letter being ‘Sa’ as ‘Sai Rama Krishna’ which conveys God’s acceptance to this name. And on the naming ceremony day which followed a few months after his birth, my father too named him ‘Sai Rama Krishna’. All the while it involved a lot of suspense and tension for me in this naming process. Who will know about this suspense and tension? Hence I enjoy eternal joy and bliss.

**His Lifeline was cut:** Our son Sai Rama Krishna Reddy has completed 30 years. He is really a very good natured person. He want to do good to all those who are around him. The present narration is about my son. In order to payback my gratitude to the almighty, I am revealing this incident. As a young boy, when he just started speaking words, I used to make him sit on my belly and made him repeat ABCD’s, 123, names of the weeks, months, etc. Within 3 to 4 days he used to repeat them on his own. I used to feel very happy for his grasping power. In school he used to score 80% marks. By the time he came to 2<sup>nd</sup> class he could read, write and speak English and Telugu quite well. That means his education base is very good. He completed 10<sup>th</sup> class and entered into inter. In Inter he

could not read his books. The moment he opened his books, he used to feel sleepy. Even in school he used to feel sleepy with his books. In Inter, I tried to sit with him for a fortnight, to make him read without sleep. But I failed. Everything must come quite naturally. Thinking so I kept quiet. But he had a serious sinus problem. My Son studied Inter in Hyderabad. During summer holidays he came to Ravulapalem. During this time his face was swollen. Thinking to be an eye problem, we got him checked with an eye specialist, who told us that this problem is not related to eye, but advised us to get him diagnosed immediately at Hyderabad with a Neuro surgeon. We all know Bread. If Bread is left in the open for 3 – 4 days, fungus will form over it. Likewise, in my son's head fungus has grown and spread to the brain. An ENT Specialist conducted a 4-hour operation to remove the fungus through Endoscopy. In this way 3 operations were performed on him in 3 years. For every operation Rs 50,000/- was spent. When he was operated for the first time, we do not think of a 2<sup>nd</sup> operation, but he had 3 operations in 3 years. And his state needs the fourth operation very soon. How to control this? We prayed God. Even our relatives prayed for his health. In response to our prayers, I met Mr. Nirmal Kumar, an ENT Specialist and a school classmate of mine, in a get together. I briefed Nirmal about my son's 3 operations and the urgent need of the fourth operation. Mr. Nirmal, though an ENT specialist, on his father's advice opted for Government Service to serve the people. Before shifting to the government job, Mr. Nirmal was working as an ENT specialist in Apollo Hospitals at Jubilee Hills. Nirmal, after hearing about my son, immediately responded saying, 'This will be your son's last operation. No further operations. You can perform your son's marriage without any second thought. You need not inform anybody about these operations'. Under Dr. Nirmal's care, the operation was performed very well. Dr. Chowdary, an ENT specialist has taken care of my son's post operation care. He has conducted 50 tests on my son to test his resistance power over various aspects. Dr. Chowdary bought medicines for my son from Faridabad. My son was treated with these medicines with a fortnight and monthly intervals. With these medicines, his resistance power has improved. In the first 3 operations, this post operation care was not at all suggested. I don't know why Doctors has not suggested this post operation care in the past? As per Nirmal's words, my son's fourth operation was held 10 years back. Since then there were no more operations. My son was studying Inter and Engineering during these four operations. He completed his engineering at 22 years. After his Engineering, I took him to Mr. Gopala Krishna, Palmist, who resides in Timmapur near Kakinada for his palm analysis. Mr. Gopala Krishna after observing my son's hand made the following observations. 'This boy's lifeline was cut from 16 – 20. It restarted again from 21 and continued till 80. He will progress well in his job'. I have not told anything about my son's 4 operations to Mr. Gopalakrishna. After hearing his observations, my heart melted in Gratitude to the Lord. Another surprising aspect followed. When Gopalakrishna was revealing the observations, I and my son were present with him. 4 to 5 years passed. One day I called my son and told him that we owe a lot to our supreme Lord, for the love and Grace He has showered on us. Saying these words, I talked to my son about his lifeline which showed a break of 4 years from 16 – 20 years. He expressed innocence about the revelation regarding his lifeline. He disclosed this fact so openly that I was surprised. 'How could you miss such an important point', I asked my son. My son expressed ignorance at this disclosure. This means that when Mr. Gopalakrishna was revealing the observations of my son's lifeline, God enabled me to hear and not my son. That means it is He who saved my son during that 4 year period. Divine acts very precisely. This incident has materialized in response to my kinship with our Lord.

**Palmistry: The significance of 21-5-1991 in my life:** We must believe science. Science commands us to follow the prescribed rules and regulations. But there must be eminent men to guide us in the field of science. Mr. Gopalakrishna is an eminent Palmist. He retired as a Government School Headmaster. 8 years ago when I took my son to him, he told me that he has seen 40,000 palms by then. He has already written two books on Palmistry. His Native place is Palivela in East Godavari, AP. Both my younger brother and Gopalakrishna's younger brother were friends, who worked as TV Technicians in the same company. Due to this friendship, Gopalakrishna made a visit to Ravulapalem from Palivela. He has observed my palm in 1991. He made the following observations for my hand. 'From 1958 to 1982 my going was smooth. In 1982 I have lost the track and derailed like a train. Adding 12 to 1982, my progress will commence in 1994. The train is back on its rails since 21-5-1991', he said. I was surprised at this date and also for his observations. I shall briefly sum up what happened since 1982. I completed my M Sc in 1982. I must get a job in APDDCF for my M Sc Dairy

Chemistry. My M Sc was completed in Feb, 1982. In March, 1982 there was an advertisement for our posts. There were 3 posts and only 2 candidates. Everything appeared a formality. But union strikes started in April in APDDCF. There was 30 % over staff in APDDCF and as a result, they have stopped fresh recruitment and thus my job opportunity got blocked. Next in November, 1983 I went into Rice Industry - first construction of the Rice mill followed by Rice Trading in 1985. In 1986 there were heavy floods in West Godavari and 90% of the crops were damaged. Government policies were not encouraging to the Rice Industry, apart from my financial problems. In 1987, I handed over the responsibilities of the Rice mill to one of the partners and came back to Hyderabad to do PGDCA for 1 year. At that time computerization was in the bud stage and there were not many opportunities. After doing some odd jobs in Hyderabad I came to settle down in Ravulapalem since February, 1990. We had 4 shops in Ravulapalem. At that time, my brother was working as a TV mechanic. So we started a TV showroom in one of the shops. After 1 year, I left the TV shop solely to my brother and started a hardware business in May, 1991. In 1991 we sold our Hyderabad house with our parents' permission and with this amount we both brothers started Business.

Now I must narrate the happenings of 21-05-1991 night. On that day, after purchasing around 25,000 rupees worth of Paints and hardware items from Hyderabad I came to Bus depot, to board the Rajole Bus. By the time the bus started, it was late by half an hour. Apart from the delay, the driver was driving the bus very slowly. The driver was so slow on that day, that the passengers went to the Driver's cabin and showed their anger on him. In spite of all this, the driver still drove very slowly. The bus came to Suryapet at 10.30 PM and halted for half an hour to enable the passengers to take dinner. The bus started at 11 PM, but by that time, the news of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination shocked the nation. The Bus reached Vijayawada between 3 – 4 AM that night. Before reaching Vijayawada, our bus was stopped thrice by the rioters. Twice all the passengers got down from the bus with their luggage. Only my luggage remained on the bus. 'So far I have suffered financial losses in Rice Trading. I have not yet settled down in life. Now I am freshly starting a new business. Even before the start of this new business, what is this calamity? Oh Lord, Please save me'. The rioters are getting ready to ignite the bus. Within moments Military men appeared before our bus, and the rioters took to heels seeing them. We all got into the bus again and the bus started slowly. In this way our bus was stopped two more times by the rioters. For the second time all the passengers got down with their luggage. As Military men approached the rioters again ran away. Our bus reached Vijayawada between 3.00 to 4.00am that night. All the buses came to a halt at Vijayawada. The entire Vijayawada bus depot was full of passengers. On 22/5/1991 during day time, curfew was in order. All the food stalls were emptied in no time. All the passengers were held up in the bus depot. They had no food on that day. On that day, the buses started again at 6.00 PM. But seeing my luggage no driver came forward to allow me into the bus. After some persuasion, I reached Ravulapalem with my luggage. I read on 22/5/1991 newspaper that 3 buses were burnt by the rioters that night. That means military men could not save those 3 buses from the rioters. For any journey, I will be early by half an hour. But on that day 21-5-1991, I came to bus stand just before the departure time, due to traffic jams. As I had the Advance reservation for the bus, the bus waited until my luggage was loaded on the bus. So in this way, I was responsible for the delay by half an hour. I don't know why, but on that night, the bus driver was particularly very slow. All these calculations enabled the military men to reach the bus in time to save it from certain damage. Our bus started at Suryapet at 11.00 PM. How military men could reach that distance in such quick time is still a mystery for me. Anyway, on that night military men saved hundreds of buses from the rioters. But on that night, it was God's hand which rescued our bus from total damage. What else can I say?

**Constructions facilitated my academic growth:** In 1991, Gopalakrishna has observed that my hand had shown many constructions. Really constructions have helped my academic growth. Before 1991, I had the experience of Rice mill construction under by belt. Since 1991 to 2010 I have completed 5 constructions. I have completed these constructions not with enough finances in my hand. But still I could complete them with the help of Bank finances. I could not settle down with my M Sc. I could not succeed with my intellect and hardworking nature in the field of business. Some of the constructions forcibly fell upon me, but I have completed them without enough finances. These constructions improved my monthly earnings. When Gopalakrishna so precisely pointed the

importance of 21-05-1991 in my life, I asked him the differences between palmistry and astrology. 'In Astrology, it will help the address of a man, pointing to the street where he lives, but in Palmistry, it points out the door number also'. I was satisfied with his remarks. For being jobless for my education, for not succeeding in business field and for not settling down in my life, my parents has shown my birth stars to some astrologers for their advice, without my knowledge. Saying that I am going on a lean track, they suggested some religious rituals for my welfare. My mother used to fast on every Monday, for the progress of her two sons. As children how can we payback our dues to such loving parents. In this context Lord Rama's words are to be remembered by everyone. Whether our parents are good or bad, we are just alive today in this world because of our parents love. So it is our prime duty to look after them well during their old age.

Mr. Gopalakrishna is an eminent Palmist. He expresses no pride and ego. He is very limited in his words and he is satisfied with whatever fees his consultants paid him.

## 06. MY BEHAVIOUR AND ITS IMPACT

Everyone must focus his attention on his behavior. Everyman with his behavior is creating an impact on others who are around him. But man is ignorant regarding his behavior. Bhagawan Baba in His message has stated that our behavior exists in three states namely physical, mental and spiritual state.

**PHYSICAL STATE:** Man with his body consciousness always thinks about himself.

**MENTAL STATE:** What others think about man? Man is generally unaware of this state.

**SPIRITUAL STATE:** The Real State of man. It is a pity that man is ignorant of his true nature.

Everyone must realize the importance of this message. In this context I shall narrate here a few of my memorable experiences, which I still relish.

Really speaking they are very simple experiences. But in the context of Baba's message they have much significance here. I hope and wish these incidents will carry the spiritual message to the readers. All these experiences have happened just like that. They were not preplanned. But all these experiences have made an indelible mark on me.

I am not a Bal Vikas Student. But right from my younger days I have practiced the six qualities of Spirituality namely good behavior, good intelligence, always followed truth, discipline, devotion and duty bound. Since my childhood I am following only these principles. Whatever be my place and position, there is no change in my behavior. I adhered to all these six qualities all through my life. Over the years, men around me changed, situations around me changed but my behavior remain unchanged with these six qualities. Baba advises that man can achieve spiritual progress with these six qualities. This is the greatest and simplest truth. Everyone must follow these six good qualities and achieve success in spirituality.

These experiences are very simple, but they are very blissful for me. Really speaking, I cannot express the real joy I have realised from these experiences. But still I shall try. I still relish all these experiences even now.

**JANA GANA MANA:** I entered my 10<sup>th</sup> class. Our class teacher was Mr. Sriram Murthy. He started the academic year by explaining our National Anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana'. He asked if anybody can sing the National Anthem. All the boys in the class raised their hands. As it was his first class of the academic year, Mr. Srirama Murthy sir does not know the educational status of the boys. But still, he gave me the chance to sing the National Anthem. I have sung the song "Jana Gana Mana" quite nicely. From that day onwards, most of our classmates used to call me "Jana Gana Mana". As my name is Vivekananda Reddy, all my classmates used to call me 'Vivek'. I like being called as 'Vivek' by everyone. Generally nobody relishes the nicknames. But in this context, when most of our classmates called me "Jana Gana Mana", I used to enjoy rare joy and bliss.

**He is innocent. He does not know anything:** It was my early childhood days. During summer I used to spend at Ravulapalem and Penugonda. At Penugonda, we had a lot of children to play and so we had a lot of fun during summer. During my stay at Penugonda, a relative of ours used to address me

thus 'He is very innocent, he does not know anything'. She used to address me like this before all other elders and children. What is this? This lady is always addressing me as 'Innocent'. Of all the children present there, I am better than all of them in terms of games and studies. But why this lady is calling me 'innocent'. My ego was hurt for her remarks at that tender age. It is here that I have learned the greatest lesson of my life. What is the meaning of 'Innocent', I introspected myself. Innocence means free from delusion. Yes I maintained purity in my mind. So in this regard, what is wrong if she address me as 'innocent'? With this introspection, I was enlightened and my ego took the last seat. Ever since then, whenever she addressed me as innocent, I used to enjoy her remarks.

**Kya 'Bae':** During my school and college days, after returning back home, we used to play cricket. We were around 20 boys. I never used bad words or harsh words. I used to come first in my class and I am good in games too. So everyone naturally loved me a lot. Nobody ever behaved badly or ever made fun of me. Even I used to be very friendly with everyone around. But in their presence, one day, I uttered 'Kya Bae'. When I uttered these words unexpectedly everyone around me started laughing. All my colony mates used to call me 'Reddy'. They all laughed again and again, stating that I have uttered the word 'Bae' for the first time. 'Bae' is a disrespectful word of address. So when they heard it for the first time from me, they had a heartfelt laugh at me. Even though they laughed at me, I enjoyed it. Here I have learned a latent lesson. My good behavior has created a positive impact on all of them.

**Hey Gandhi! You too visited the Café!** I was in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year degree. In our class there were only 15 students. We used to sit and move about in two batches, but we never had any differences. We used to wish each other regularly. I used to carry lunch box to my college. Even a few others used to get lunch boxes. Except me, everybody used to go to a nearby café and take tea after completing their lunch. Our degree first year passed away like this. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, a few days passed in this way. But one day I went with our batch, to the café to have tea, for the first time. Seeing me for the first time in a café, Tilak Raj Waghray of the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch remarked me "Hey Gandhi! You too visited the café"? I don't know at what auspicious moment he called me "Gandhi", all my classmates since that very moment started calling me "Gandhi". By calling me as Gandhi, they might have lacked some affection, so they started calling me "Bapu". So in this way for the rest of my degree all my classmates used to call me "Bapu" and sometimes "Modern Gandhi" for wearing Pant and Shirt. I used to enjoy thoroughly being called as Bapu or Gandhi by them.

Right from my younger days, I like Lal Bahadur Shastri, the most. Next I liked Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. And Mahatma Gandhi has taken the third slot in my list of all time great patriots. In this way, with immaturity, I classified these great men during my childhood. God decided to correct me. God made me call "Bapu or Gandhi" by my classmates for two full years in my degree. During these two years I recollected many events of Mahatma Gandhi's life. I could realize the greatness of Mahatma Gandhi. I have realized that such a great soul will rarely take birth on this earth. The broad and universal ideals of Gandhi, his experimental verification of Truth, the beneficial impact of Non-Violence in our Society, and Gandhi's Spiritual adherence have all been realized by me. By analyzing the various aspects of Mahatma Gandhi's life, I have manifested all these noble ideals in my life too. So in this way, all my degree classmates were indirectly responsible for developing these nobler ideals in me. They all called me Bapu for two long years. When the entire world has recognized the greatness of Mahatma Gandhi and called him as the "Man of the Millenium", the joy I experienced knew no bounds. So in this way, God has indirectly helped me to develop a broader outlook towards our Society during my college days.

**Sunder's Milk:** We were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year degree. We had a Bio-Chemistry subject. Milk coagulates at Ph 4.6. To conduct this experiment our Sir has asked us to bring half a litre of milk. During those days

milk was available only in the morning i.e., before 6.00am, in Milk Booths only. Sunder, who resides just half a km away from our College has accepted to bring the milk. The experiment was over. Raj Mohan, our lecturer was a good person but quite serious in the class. He asked us, 'who brought this milk?'. Sunder has only one eye, with some long bushy hair. In addition to that, his words and thoughts enable us to get an impression that he is a young witch. Instead of replying, 'Sunder brought this milk', I replied "Sunder's Milk". As soon as I replied "Sunder's Milk", the entire class roared into wild laughter. Laughs continued for full five minutes. In a man's life such laughs will be entertained 4-5 times. Even our Sir joined us. What is the reason for this laughter? Our behavior is the main cause for such a laugh. Our thoughts, words and deeds comprise our behavior.

**Nothing Special, Zia-Ul-Haq:** It was the first week of April, 1979. We were in our final days of our degree. We had a student by name Aggarwal, in our class, who used to mix with the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch. He has a lot of anger and pride. Apart from that, his looks resembled the Pakistani Military General, Gen Zia-Ul-Haq. In the first week of April, the military regime has hanged the former Pakistani Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Bhutto is widely acclaimed as a great Statesman. As usual, we went to our college, on the following day of Bhutto's death sentence. We had Zoology practical in the morning session. There were still a couple of minutes left for the class to start. All the boys of the class sat as usual in two batches. I casually looked back at the second batch boys who sat behind us. Aggarwal in a loud voice remarked me, "Hey Bhutto! Why are you looking back". I spontaneously responded, "Nothing Special, Mr. Zia-Ul-Haq". The moment they heard me say "Zia-Ul-Haq", they roared into wild laughter. 5 minutes passed but the laughs still continued. Aggarwal could not laugh like us, but was seen smiling all the while. When the students were laughing our Madam has entered the class, but soon realized that the entire class is in a different world. Slowly the laughs subsided. If I speak this incident today to anybody this may not carry much significance. But what is the cause for so much laughter? It is due to our behavior. Everyone around us watches and observes us. So we must develop good behavior.

**Vivek is with us. So not now:** Those were the days of my M Sc. I have done my M Sc from NDRI, Karnal, Haryana. We were 15 students from Andhra Pradesh doing various courses in our PG level. Every evening after the classes were over, we used to walk 1 km, within NDRI campus to have tea. We used to go 5-6 boys as a batch. While walking we used to speak on a lighter vein. Even I used to participate in almost all these discussions. But whenever the topic shifted on women, I used to maintain silence. In this way, one year passed. One day while going for tea, one of the boys started a topic on women, and suddenly laughing loudly said, "Vivek is with us, so not now". Saying so, he stopped the matter. I never talked about women, but I never commanded them to stop talking on women. It was my behavior which commanded them. Such experiences are blissful and everlasting.

**Among us, Mr Reddy is a Gentleman:** In 1997, I did Main Frames in Visag. In our class there were 7 students. Classes used to commence at 9.00am and continued till 4.00pm. In between there was a half an hour break. At that time I was 39 years old. In our batch, there was an advocate who was 43 years old. The remaining five students were fresh Engineering graduates. One of them was a girl. Ten weeks course was completed. Every day during break we used to go for tea to a nearby hotel. During this period we used to speak things on a lighter vein. We never spoke of unwanted things. On the farewell day, this girl remarked, "Among us, Mr. Reddy is a Gentleman". In the 10 week period, to my knowledge, she was never put to any inconvenience. So I replied her, "Why are you calling me alone as a Gentleman? All of us are Gentlemen". To this remark, the girl responded, "You don't know Reddy Garu, these boys are better than this old guy". We all had a hearty laugh at the girl's remarks. I have not expected these remarks from the girl. I relish her words even now.

In this way, wherever we are and whatever be our company, when we possessed the six good qualities of spirituality, we will create a positive impression on others with our behavior.

(In this chapter, I have narrated 8 incidents here. All these incidents will create a feeling among the readers that I may be egoistic, singing my own glory. Really speaking all these incidents happened just like that without any preplan. In this context, I feel all those dialogues which have been uttered in the different situations are utterances of the Divine, which gave me everlasting joy and bliss. Sorry for this explanation).

## 07. FORMLESS ATTRIBUTES OF OUR LORD

Once a college student pleaded Baba, “It is said that even a tiny ant will not bite without Lord Siva’s permission”. Please clarify this point to me. To this Baba asked this boy to raise his right hand. The boy raised his hand up. After a few moments, Baba asked the same boy to raise his right hand again. But this time this boy could not raise his right hand. This shows how the Formless attributes of the Lord work. They work beyond the attributes of the five elements. Our body, mind and our senses are made up of these five elements and thereby its attributes, but the Lord’s Divinity is beyond the realm of these attributes.

God is Omnipresent, omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnifarious, beyond the physical attributes; is beyond Time and Space; has neither Birth nor Death; He is an Eternal Witness; has no Thirst and Hunger; He is blemishless; He is unsullied, pure and Liberator. Though unseen He is Eternal and Infinite. It is the prime duty of every man to manifest these formless attributes of the Lord within himself. He, who achieves this, will relish the Divine Company forever. How is that? Only upon realizing these unseen Divine attributes, man will start his Kinship with our Lord. This is the greatest experience of man on earth. All God realized souls will shift to this Kinship with our Lord leaving behind the physical mundane world.

Without love for God, it is not possible for anyone to grace His formless attributes. It is not possible for anyone to grasp these infinite qualities on a finite plane through our body, our mind, our senses or our intelligences. The formless attributes of the Lord are thus beyond these entities.

All the realized souls will narrate through their experiences the formless attributes of the Lord. They narrate these experiences for the benefit of mankind. Who on earth can grasp the eternal joy and bliss? Only the God Realised souls. They try their best to put their experiences on paper. They can do justice only to a certain extent. All the realized souls with love will make efforts to show a path to the mankind, based on their experiences on God’s formless attributes. We must follow them. They have achieved their infinite goals after a lot of effort for which they enjoy immense peace and bliss in the process. There are no shortcuts. Everybody must make their own effort. Thus the realised souls will serve as Torch bearers for the humanity in matters related to spirituality.

**Omnipresence:** God is Omnipresent. Every atom is occupied with Divinity. There is no space left unoccupied by Divinity.

**Omniscience:** God resides in all our hearts, in all living beings. He knows what is going on within each one of us.

**Omnipresence:** God has the capacity to manifest anywhere, any moment. This entire creation has evolved from Him, and again will re merge in Him.

**Omnifarious:** Past, Present and future details of this entire universe are known to God. The birth and death details, the changes that occur in all living beings are all known to God.

**No Birth nor Death:** God has neither birth nor death.

**No thirst or hunger:** God has neither hunger nor thirst.

**God is beyond physical attributes:** This entire creation is made up of five elements. They are earth, water, fire, air and space. All these five elements are characterized by five attributes. They are Sound, Touch, Form, Taste and Smell. But the Divinity is beyond these five attributes. Our mind is within the reach of these five attributes. But the Divinity, which is beyond these five attributes, is beyond the reach of our body, our mind, our senses and our intelligences. Such a Divinity can be grasped only by our spiritual heart with the help of our intelligences.

**God has infinite positive attributes:** We cannot count the positive attributes of our Lord. Daily in our rituals, we recollect these Divine attributes with 108 names, 1008 names as a means of prayer for our Almighty God. These Divine attributes are not meant for us to praise our Lord, but to recollect His Divine attributes to change for the better.

**Blemishless:** God is blemishless. Not realizing this, man is blaming God for his own sufferings and lapses. Man is ignorant of his lapses and thus is blaming God. God always helps man to progress. Sacrificing his ego man must learn to love God. Man must learn to bear the responsibility of his actions.

**Time is God:** Time is God. It is God who created the Time. Just as man created a Watch, God created the Time. Just as man who invented the watch can control the slow and speed of a watch, likewise this Time is also under the control of our Lord.

**God is Pure, Unsullied and our Liberator:** God is pure consciousness. He blesses man with eternal peace and bliss. He liberates man from all the clutches of this materialistic world.

**Man's lapses are his lack of clarity and efforts:** Man is a finite being. To manifest the infinite attributes of the Lord, man must realize all his resources. Man must leave aside his finite attributes and hold on to the infinite qualities. Here man lacks clarity over his own resources. Man as mortal always thinks himself as a limited being. This thinking will not help man in his spirituality.

Here again man needs some more clarity regarding his spiritual effort. Man thinks that he is doing God's work. This is where man is going wrong. For all his efforts, it is the man, who is benefitted. Really speaking we are not doing any favour to God, but in this process on the other hand it is man who is receiving God's help. God is our true servant. We all must realize this truth before making our spiritual effort.

This is the age of Computers. All those who use computers will commit 3 types of errors. They are

**1. Clerical Errors:** These Clerical Errors are related to the Computer Language. There are many Computer Languages. If we write a wrong code, these errors will be brought to the notice during compilation. Such errors can be easily rectified.

**2. Logical Errors:** When the Program is free from clerical errors, we run the program to enjoy the end results. But if we commit logical errors, then the end results will differ from our expected results. Based on the end results, we can realize our logical errors and can rectify them.

**3. Execution Errors:** These Execution errors are very difficult to trace out. There will be no clerical errors or logical errors, but still the program will not run. To run such a program, we need the expert guidance.

In the same way, in our daily life too, we commit these 3 types of errors in our spiritual path. They are called Physical lapses, Mental lapses and Executional lapses which occur due to inexperience. Physical lapses are related to our body, mental lapses are related to our mind i.e. logic and the executional lapses are related to our inexperience.

We can correct our physical lapses quite easily. Mental lapses take some time to be realized and to get corrected. But today, man because of his ego is not realizing his physical nor mental lapses. So man must submit his ego, to realize his executional errors which are not easily realised. Some lack physical and mental lapses, but still they cannot reach their goals. Their status looks pity. They are in between a finite and the infinite levels. At this point of time, they must shed their ego and reach God for help or they have to heed to the experienced good council or else they must make an intense effort on their own with love towards God to overcome executional lapses.

What can be said about those individuals who lack physical and mental effort? They cannot understand the executional errors at all.

Those who are in the Tamasik state will commit physical, mental and execution errors. This is because of their ignorance.

Those who are in the Rajasik state, will commit mental and execution errors. These men are not ignorant but their logic differs as they are attached to this materialistic world.

And those who are in the Sathwik state will commit only execution errors.

This entire explanation is narrated for one simple reason. Today man is not realizing his mistakes because of his ignorance and attachment to this materialistic world. And in the process he is blaming God for all his sufferings. This is not desired by man. Man must realize his lapses on his own. Only then he can rectify his lapses and makes an improved effort for his progress.

**Our Progress involves shifting of our Resources:** God has blessed man with four resources. They are the body, the mind, the intelligence and the spiritual Heart. Man is limited. As long as man leads a life with this body and mind, he will lead a limited life. But man's intelligences and the spiritual heart enables him to realize his infinite resources.

A young boy learns writing alphabets using a slate and a chalk. When he becomes perfect with a slate and a chalk, he will then shift to a book and a pen. Here the slate and a chalk can be related to our body and the mind, and that of the book and pen to be our spiritual heart and our intelligences. We can easily erase the content written on a slate using a chalk. This means as long as we are limited to our body and the mind, all these experiences will remain temporary. How long shall we use a slate and a chalk? How long shall we continue being limited to our body and our mind? Initially, in the beginning we use a slate and a chalk. When we are perfect with a slate and a chalk, we shift to a book and a pen. The contents written on a book are permanent. This means if we lead a life using our spiritual heart and our intelligences, we will have permanent experiences. Our mind may not control our senses, but our intelligences go beyond our senses.

**How to go beyond our Body and our Mind:** As long as we use a slate, we need a chalk. In order to write on a book, we need a pen. God is beyond the five physical attributes i.e. the sound, the touch, the form, the taste and the smell. Our mind can grasp these five attributes but it cannot go beyond these five attributes. This means as long as man is limited with his mind he cannot realize the infinite nature of the Divinity. Hence he must go beyond his body and the mind. How is it possible? Man

must make proper use of his body and the mind right from the beginning. Only then it is possible to go beyond our body and the mind. As long as man fails to control his body and his mind, how can such a man go beyond them? It is not possible. How to control our Body? Man must have the realization that, "I am not this Body. The owner of the Body is the Soul. This body is just His instrument to perform all divine acts". Such thinking will slowly diminish our body consciousness. But as long as we possess body attachment, we cannot go beyond the Body. How to go beyond our Mind? Generally man expects fruits for his actions. Man must not forget what Lord Krishna has advised the humanity through His Bhagawad Gita? Lord Krishna advised man to do actions without desiring for the fruits of his actions. By being selfless, one can go beyond one's Mind.

We have a mirror. There is a lot of dust on it. Such a mirror can be of no help to us. A mirror must be clean in order to reflect our image. In the same way, our mind acts as a mirror. As long as our mind carries the dust of anger, desires, miserliness, the feeling of attachment, pride and jealousy, then such a mind will not reflect our true nature. Until then our mind will be our biggest hurdle.

**We must get habituated to our Spiritual Heart and to our Intelligences:** When a man overcomes his body and the mind, then he will get habituated with his spiritual heart and the intelligences. This spiritual heart and the intelligences will realize the eternal aspects of humanity and aim to achieve them. But then, even our spiritual heart carries few lapses. These lapses are called 'Vishaya Vaasanas' i.e. bad habits. Because of these bad habits our spiritual heart is in a condensed state. God given spiritual heart can attain infinite dimensions to contain the entire Universe, says Baba. So we must make efforts to remove these bad habits from our spiritual heart. How to remove these Vishaya Vaasanas? We must always practice the five human values to drive them away. When we practice these human values all the time, God will bless us with 18 Divine qualities. So when we drive out the bad habits and manifest the 18 Divine qualities in our Spiritual Heart, we will start enjoying the Infinite attributes of our Lord.

As soon as we get accustomed with our spiritual heart and our intelligences, we are getting ready for that infinite state of God Realisation to manifest in us. But how is that Infinite state of Divinity? It is Pure, Unsullied and Liberating. We must make our mind pure. Next we must transform our heart into Unsullied state. When we achieve these changes in us, then the Divine will not delay even for a moment. It will immediately manifest in us. We are then blessed with Eternal Peace and Bliss.

**Man must make a loving effort:** Man must learn to love God. Without loving God, however intense his efforts may be he will not realize his lapses. So those who aspire for God Realisation, must shun his ego and submit at His Feet. God is Omniscient. He knows our personal status. It is He who can guide us better and help us to infinity. God is at our disposal to help us all the time. So man must sincerely pray God for His Help. If we pray God, then God will help us in our progress one step at a time. Slowly and steadily we make a move towards God Realisation, and later to His close proximity.

**We must fill our Spiritual Heart with Eternal Peace:** Before God Realisation my mind was pure. At that time, I don't know my lapses (execution errors). Just before God Realisation lack of celibacy was my lapse. When my wife was pregnant, I could practice celibacy both on physical and mental planes. And God has not delayed even for a moment. He manifested in me with this God Realisation. I am blessed with Eternal Peace and Bliss. Do you know why I am calling Eternal Peace? Bhagawan Baba has said that when man is blessed with peace, it will remain in him forever. I am enjoying such eternal peace. When an infinite entity manifests in us, we will enjoy infinite attributes. Though I am

enjoying eternal peace, I am unaware of it until I read Baba's message. After realizing this truth, I was in ecstasy for many days.

Bhagawan Baba has named His living place as "Prasanthi Nilayam". Santhi means Peace. What does 'Prasanthi' mean? On this count, His devotees asked Baba's explanation in naming His place as "Prasanthi Nilayam". Baba wants us always to enjoy this peace forever. But these are the days of 'wars' and the meaning of Peace had changed. In the present day world, the time gap between two wars is the new meaning of Peace. Baba wants to avoid this meaning for Peace. Peace is not a time interval. It is a continuous entity. Once manifested, it will remain forever. In order to give this message, Baba named His place as Prasanthi Nilayam, the abode of highest peace in the world.

**God's Love is Unsulline, Pure and Liberating:** Man is not realizing his lapses. Man thinks that all his efforts are to please God. This is not proper. Man must realise that he is making an effort for his self progress. As the progress continues with effort, man will feel a lot of improvement. These changes are evident in every man for his efforts. Even then this progress is not steady. It will have breaks at certain points. During these breaks we become restless and gets ready to blame God. When we are unable to realize our own lapses who else can guide us? Can our neighbors guide us? No. Only our Omniscient God knows our status and thereby our lapses. Only He can guide us. So we must pray God to help us. Our prayer makes our job easy. God always responds to a sincere prayer. He never delays. The Unsulline, Pure and Liberating Consciousness of the Divine is always ready to manifest in us any moment. It is we, with our lapses, blocking this Consciousness from manifesting within us. I shall narrate here two incidents, which describes the infinite love of God's Unsulline, Pure and Liberating Consciousness.

**Do not repeat what you have done the previous night:** We commit mistakes and feel that God is unaware of them. Around 4-5 years back, all the hundred huts in the hamlet called Konda Modalu in East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh have been gutted in fire. This hamlet is in the midst of river Godavari and thus is isolated from the general stream of public. The Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, East Godavari, has responded to this calamity. To the effected villagers they have supplied cooking utensils, a trunk box, clothes and food items. They have carried all these items in a ten ton lorry. After unloading them from the lorry, all the items were carried on boat to some distance. From there, these items were carried by sevadal and the villagers upto the village. At the time of distributing these items, Sri GVG Krishna Murthy, a father figure in the organization, recollecting his memories of his past visit in the presence of Bhagawan Baba at Konda Modalu, has narrated the following incident.

Bhagawan Baba visited East Godavari 18 times. In one of His visits, Baba visited Konda Modalu. During that visit, the entire organization became actively involved making the necessary arrangements for Baba's visit. In this context, a sevadal was seen very active, working day and night and gaining the attention of the district organisers. During this visit, when Baba is on stage along with the elders of the organization, this sevadal was seen approaching towards Baba. Baba stopped him at a distance and said, "Don't repeat what you have done the previous night". Saying these words, Baba told him to move away. All the elders heard the Baba's reprimand to that sevadal. Everybody in the organization has to obey Baba's orders without any exception. Baba will not permit lack of discipline. In all organizational works, discipline is given top priority. In this context, after the meeting was over, the elders called this sevadal and enquired about Baba's reprimand. All the district heads were shocked to hear this sevadal's reply. This sevadal had an illegal affair with a woman, the previous night. The organization heads all the while were very happy with his services and have least expected this from him. "See. This sevadal has fooled all of us and tried his best to get close to Baba. But he could not fool Baba". Mr.GVG Krishna Murthy thus explained the unsulline nature of Divinity.

**God helps us realize and overcome our lapses:** We pray God to fulfill many desires. But we never give a thought over the pre-requisites needed to get these desires fulfilled. We feel happy, if the desires are fulfilled. If the desires are not fulfilled we feel sad and lament over them, and put the blame on God. God's Love is Unsulline, Pure and Liberating. God is with us every moment to help us, but our desires are beyond our qualifications. In this regard we are unable to realize our lapses. I shall narrate another incident which presents God's Unsulline, Pure and Liberating Love.

I went to Puttaparthi as East Godavari Batch Incharge, continuously for seven services to take part in Puttaparthi Prasanthi Services. As a batch incharge, after the registration of sevadal for allotment of duties is over, I will be allotted Patrolling duty. I used to conduct this Patrolling Duty with a lot of love towards the sevadal on duty. During Patrolling duty I used to brief each sevadal, at his duty point, with Baba's messages and miracles. All sevadal, new and old, used to relish my visit. During this interaction, I used to find a few sevadal who are very much dedicated towards their duties. I was moved by their dedication for service. With such sevadal I used to ask them for their personal experiences. On my request, they used to narrate their thrilling experiences to me. I used to feel very happy for their experiences. They used to express that they are rendering these services as a token of gratitude to Baba. I am narrating one such incident which depicts God's Pure, Unsulline and Liberating Love towards this sevadal.

This sevadal has come from Adilabad. (Right now I don't remember his name). He narrated this incident 5-6 years back. For 15 years, this sevadal couple had no children. They have spent more than 1 lakh rupees to get a child through invitro fertilization, but in vain. During this time, someone told him about Baba's Divinity and advised him to make a visit to Puttaparthi to have the darshan of Baba and to have His blessings for a child. As this sevadal does not know anything about Baba, he decided to spend only 15 days with Baba at Parthy. One week passed away at Puttaparthi but he could not get a close view of Baba. He became very sad. 'Why this is happening?' he lamented in Baba's Divine presence. He had two habits, Smoking and Drinking. Suddenly he took a decision to quit these two habits. The very next day, he got a close darshan of Baba. But Baba went away without speaking a word to him. Now, what to do? He lamented again. The old saint, Karunyananda who moves closely with Baba, entered his mental spree. He met Karunyananda and explained to him about his self and requested him to recommend Baba to help his cause. Karunyananda has listened to this sevadal with a lot of love, but could not promise him in conveying his status to Bhagwan Baba. This sevadal has resigned to his fate and felt satisfied with his effort. Karunyananda could meet and briefed Baba about this sevadal's purpose of visit. Baba after hearing from Karunyananda, gave six Vibuthi packets into his hands, and went away without uttering a word. Karunyananda gave those six Vibuthi packets to that sevadal, and told him that his wife must take this vibuthi over a period of six months. His wife obeyed the orders, and after six months she became pregnant and delivered a male child. They have named their child as "Sai Prasad", as a token of Gratitude for Baba's grace. Ever since the birth of his son, this sevadal has made it a regular habit to visit Puttaparthi every year to render service. Five years back his son was then a 16 year old boy.

This experience is a good narration to explain God's unsulline, pure and liberating love. This sevadal has no children. They want children. They don't know their lapses for not possessing a child. When one week passed without getting a close view of Baba, he prayed for Baba's help. At that moment, he realized his lapses as smoking and drinking. At that very moment, he took a vow to quit his habits. And the very next day, he got a very close darshan of Baba. Baba tested his integrity for another six months. This sevadal has fulfilled his promise made to Baba. God was pleased and blessed this sevadal with a son. The sevadal after realising his lapses has gained enough strength to overcome

his habits. And the outcome is everlasting peace, in the form of a son “Sai Prasad”. Not only this, having realized Baba’s Divinity, this sevadal has joined the organization for his spiritual upliftment.

Every man is very energetic, roars Swami Vivekananda. Not realizing his true potentialities man is feeling weak. In the above example, this sevadal has realized his lapses by praying God. Once he realized his lapses, he gained enough strength from within to overcome his lapses. He has left these two habits forever. For giving up these two habits he could benefit infinite peace in the process. He joined the organization to make further amends for his spiritual progress.

## 08. TRUTH IS DIVINE

When I was 25 years old, I have realized the Formless Attributes of the Lord. Until then I have not realized the Divine within me. After having realized Him, who is my Companion thereafter? It is He. How can I express my relation with Him? To what extent I can illustrate it? Should I call it a Game, a Song, a Lesson, a Drama, a Painful experience or a Joyful experience? If I call it a Game, there will be a win or a loss. But Bhagawan Baba has told us that on a spiritual plane, there will be no loss or win situation and that all the participants will be the winners of the Game. Coming to a Song, we call all our near and dear ones by names, but how shall we call our Lord? We call our God by singing a Song, showering a lot of Love, supported by Music. Hearing and singing Lord's different attributes in a melodious way and partaking in Bhajans is really blissful. Time passes off without our knowledge as we hear the Glory of our Lord. If I treat the relation with God as a Lesson, then sometimes the lesson is easy to grasp and sometimes it is a hard nut to crack. But nevertheless, every experience is a great lesson for me. I have learned a lot of knowledge from each and every lesson. Because of the benefits involved in each lesson, the pain involved in such an experience has never bothered me. Today I never treat a painful experience as a painful experience. Today, I never feel any experience as painful or as a difficult one. Today I feel life as a smooth going. The reason being God, who is the Doer of all Acts. And coming to the happiness part, the happiness I enjoyed for partaking in Spiritual Acts is many times more than what I expect in the beginning. And coming to the Drama, our Lord is a Supreme Director. He has given me excellent physical and mental faculties to achieve greatness on this limited, finite and worldly plane. But as the Drama unfolded for me after my M Sc, I have entered the Infinite plane. Today I enjoy each and every bit of my role, being enacted by Him. He is a Super Director. He crafted my role as an insignificant one on a limited physical materialistic plane, but gave me an important role in the Infinite Plane.

Does this mean I had no hardships on this materialistic plane? If I count them it can assume a big number. Who is responsible for these hardships? Undoubtedly it is me. Yes. My first love is God. In my academic career, I tried to become a Doctor. With my educational base, I could have very easily achieved it. But I failed here. Why? At the age of 5 or 6, I developed my first love for God. This is my natural desire. It was my father's wish that I should become a Doctor. Among these two desires, God fulfilled my first desire based on my spiritual status at the age of 25. I therefore had no regrets for not becoming a Doctor.

I failed to become a Doctor. What will a Doctor do? A Doctor diagnoses and drives away the ill health of a patient. But what role has God given me on an infinite plane? He made me a Spiritual Doctor. We must hold this world with our Left Hand so that it can be left off quite easily, and hold God with our Right Hand which is always a right decision. We must hold God forever. My role is just a signpost, in this regard.

Our mind plays an important role for our good health. And leading a spiritual life means our mind must be tuned to good condition, to enable good physical health. Generally, a Doctor guides us well to take care of our physical health. God has thus enabled me to follow His Teachings and thereby enabled me to guide others in the path of spirituality. People opt to spirituality to gain peace of mind.

If we want to see the Real World, it is not possible to see it by sitting at home. It is possible only in the midst of hardships. Swami Vivekananda has travelled the length and breadth of India to drive out the weaknesses in man. Mahatma Gandhi travelled each and every village during the Freedom struggle to realize the economic status of the country and also about the spiritual strength of

the people. Swami Vivekananda is blessed with 'Selfless Service' as a weapon to drive out the weakness in man. And for Mahatma Gandhi, it was the most potent 'Non-Violence', which became a medium of warfare to Establish Peace and win Freedom for India.

What is my qualification? Man faces many ups and downs. Why these hardships for man? Dualities play a big role in everyman's life. Man carries with him these dualities as he moves forward in his life. Man must raise his good qualities and reduce the bad qualities in him so that he can reach salvation in this birth itself. What have I done regarding these dualities? I have surrendered to the Lord. I followed His advice. I experienced Rama's and Pandava's exile in the process. Under His guidance all these processes went on quite naturally.

For a man to Surrender to God, he must possess six qualities. All those who possess these six qualities and make a Spiritual effort, will win abundant Grace of the Lord, says Bhagawan Baba. Man in order to manifest in him the Formless Attributes of the Lord must possess these six qualities. What are those six qualities? They are 1) Courage, 2) Fearlessness, 3) Valor, 4) Intelligence, 5) Cheerfulness and 6) Peace. When I heard this message I felt ecstasy for many days. I saluted the Great Lord for this technical information. Such information gives clarity to our spiritual efforts to realize the formless attributes of the Lord. It guides and enables us all in this direction. He gave us a lot of such knowledge. We must realize our latent energies. Only when we possess these latent six energies, we can surrender to our Lord, who is Unseen, Mysterious, Magnanimous and Unfathomable. To constantly maintain a relation with such an unseen Lord man must possess all these six qualities.

The Formless attributes of the Lord are beyond the reach of our Mind. Our mind can grasp the attributes of the five elements namely Sound, Touch, Form, Taste and Smell. Beyond these five attributes, the mind cannot grasp anything. Divinity, which is beyond the five senses have not been established even by the Vedas, says Bhagawan Baba in his book, Aatma Ramam. There is no need for anybody to prove such Divinity, says Baba. But Baba says that everybody must experience such Divinity within themselves. To explore and experience such Divinity within, the first step is Courage. We must face all materialistic odds through conservation of our energies. For this we need a lot of Courage to uplift ourselves.

The second quality is Fearlessness. Why should we be Fearless? Everybody in this materialistic world follows a worldly path. But you have opted a path to realize the unseen infinite God. This is totally an isolated and different path. Physically you may feel all alone. You have only God to share your experiences. You will not face any ghosts, but you must be Fearless enough to trek such a path all alone. In Telugu, 'adhrustam' means luck. If we win a lottery or gain something special, we call it as Adhrustam. If we split this word 'Adhrustam' into A + Dhrustam, Dhrusti means that which is visible. Therefore Adhrustam means that which is not visible. To establish contact with the unseen God i.e. Divinity, can be called as Adhrustam, says Baba. So in our day to day life, there are many words which show a vast difference between the worldly meaning and the spiritual meaning. When we shift from physical mundane world to a spiritual life, we will grasp such Truths. Until then we will not be able to grasp the real meanings of most of the terms, which we commonly use in our daily life.

To explain a few such situations, we need to take the help of another language. There are two terms in Telugu. They are 'Nijam' and 'Sathyam'. Both mean the same but with a difference. 'Nijam' is the physical Truth, which changes with time, but 'Sathyam' is a spiritual truth which remains unchanged with time. For example: I wore a white dress in the morning and a Blue dress in the evening. So when a question arises about my dress, the answer changes from White in the morning to

Blue in the evening. Today man is not differentiating the meanings of some of these terms. So on a physical plane, Truth changes with time but on a spiritual plane Truth is eternal and will never change with time.

God is Truth and Truth is permanent. To maintain such a permanent relation with God one must be Fearless. Why? His experiences remain very personal, and he cannot convince others in this regard. These experiences really prove blissful in the end, but in between one must be dare enough to withstand queries and maintain calmness.

The third quality is Valor. We are maintaining a personal relation with our Lord's formless attributes. We will face situations as if we are in doldrums. Until then there were two pairs of footsteps. During doldrums you will see only one pair of footsteps. You will mistake that God has left you and you are all alone. You feel you are in need of His Presence. You will question Him, to that effect. Then our Sweet Lord will lovingly reply us to carefully observe the footsteps. On careful observation we will soon realize that the footsteps belong to our Lord. Then what happened to our footsteps? We again queried our Lord. He replied us by saying that He has carried our entire burden on Himself when we are in doldrums. In order to face many such situations we need valor to continue our efforts.

Intelligence is the fourth quality. We can give rest to our mental faculties, as we maintain a relation with God. On a physical plane, we may be intellectuals. But God has nothing to do with our intellect. In fact, our intellect is the biggest hurdle in our spiritual path. Bhagawan Baba used to receive many invitations from the intellectuals. But Baba never entertained such invitations. Intellect is different from Intelligence. Intellect is a mind game, whereas Intelligence is related to our spiritual heart. So what does this mean to us? This means we must rely on our intelligences, to make a spiritual progress. This spirituality enables man from a finite state to an infinite state. Thus in this infinite state of Divinity you will not find the Beginning or an Ending, you will not differentiate the Good and the Bad, you will not find the Ups and Lows. When you experience such infinity, even your intelligences will appear limited. So in order to maintain company with such Divinity, you must limit your mental faculties and intelligences to a great extent. This is possible by reducing one's ego.

The fifth pre-requisite is Cheerfulness. When we are maintaining a relation with the Supreme Lord, where will our dualities stand? Generally on a physical plane, we will expect some fruits for all our actions. But Baba stated that the fruits of the action will be enjoyed as the action is being performed. So when we are in tune with the Divine, we commit acts but not giving importance to the fruits thereof. But we are definitely sure of Bliss. We enjoy our acts as we do them with our thoughts, words and deeds. We will not feel the hardships involved in such acts. In the end, we will enjoy more than what we expect. These actions enlighten us with knowledge and we maintain cheerfulness throughout.

The sixth quality is Peace. Without experiencing peace within, can we continue a relation with the Formless attributes of our Lord? It is not at all possible. We have selected a good path. We trusted God. We are ready to face all odds in the process. But our efforts remain confined to us. Others cannot properly understand our acts. Our near and dear will misunderstand us. To all these situations we must overcome them with peace. Once this peace comes to our experience, it will remain forever, says Baba. After experiencing such peace within, all God lovers will make a steady effort to merge in Him.

This Divine relation is very special, as it brings out the six best credentials in man. The Eternal Truth can be realized only when we manifest these six qualities. God is Truth, an infinite entity. It is not easy to grasp the Infinite Entity by a common man. King Janaka, who manifested these six qualities along with many virtues, has decided to realize such a 'Truth'. For this effort, what King Janaka realized will serve as is an eye opener to the entire humanity.

The ignorance in man is driven out by enlightenment. In ancient India, various rituals were performed for the welfare of the Society, for the enlightenment of the People and to establish peace in the world. The impact of these rituals will have a bearing on the past, present and the future course of things. Once, King Janaka has performed a Yagnam for the welfare of the humanity in a grand manner. Many scholars attended the ritual. Among the scholars Yagnavalkya and Gargi shared their eminent knowledge with others. In this context, Yagnavalkya has expressed that spirituality can be linked to man's past, present and the future births. On this issue, King Janaka asked Yagnavalkya to reveal about his past birth. Yagnavalkya thought for a few moments and told King Janaka that there is no need to learn the details of one's past birth. But King Janaka persisted. Yagnavalkya warned King Janaka that he will face troubles, if he learns about his past life. King Janaka still persisted. He told that Dualities form a part of man's life and that he is ready to face the consequences. Yagnavalkya has no other go but to reveal the past birth of King Janaka. "King Janaka's past life's mother is his present wife", yagnavalkya revealed. Janaka was unmoved by this revelation. He prostrated to his wife in the midst of that august gathering. He saluted yagnavalkya for revealing his past life. King Janaka expressed that he was not upset with these revelations, but in fact conveyed his thanks to the Lord for being informed of such information. King Janaka expressed satisfaction to learn such a Truth. Since then King Janaka grew more spiritually and became a saintly king.

Bhagawan Baba in one of His discourses has narrated the above incident of King Janaka. The lives of great men reveal many such Truths to the humanity and we must accept them. We must practice such truths and must never neglect them. Following these truths we will benefit in the long run.

Even in my life I have come across such a similar incident. After completing my 25 years, I have experienced the Formless attributes of the Lord. Divinity is an infinite state. Just as we can light many lamps with one lamp, this Divinity can be compared to an integrated affair. In this context, I linked the Law of Cause and Effect to this Infinite Divinity. Before Realisation, I had just theoretical knowledge about this Law of Cause and Effect. But after Realisation, my theoretical knowledge has been transformed into Practical Knowledge. Immediately after Realisation, I thought this life must be my last sojourn on Earth. Thinking so, I have decided to undergo punishment for any lapses that I have committed in this life. Right from my childhood, I have practiced good habits. Whatever sin I have done, with or without my knowledge, must be awarded the punishment. To speak the Truth, I am confident that I committed no sin at all. With this confidence in me, I prayed sincerely to our dear Lord to reveal me my sin and later the punishment I have to face for my committed sin. If I undergo my punishment in this birth itself, then I will be a Liberated man, I thought. As soon as I conveyed my plea to the Infinite Supreme Lord, from my Heart, I realized the sin committed by me. "I have misused my eyes". What bad have I seen with my eyes? I have seen ill through Movies and Film Magazines. What is the punishment for this committed sin of seeing bad? Of my two eyes, both having good eye sight, my left eye sight is slightly better than my right eye. "I will lose the sight of my left eye" came the reply for my query. For a few moments I could not bear the punishment. I do not want to avoid the punishment. Slowly I conceded. I became strong enough to face the outcome. I experienced the Realisation in August, 1983. Immediately after Realisation, I practically tested the Divinity with this query. I realized my lapse and along with it the punishment. When will I face the

punishment? I don't know, but I tuned myself to face it. On 13-12-1983, at around 6.00pm I was travelling on a Scooter from Penugonda to Tanuku along with Mr Prasad Reddy, my Brother-in-Law. Generally I drive at a 40-45km speed. But on that trip, I was riding at 60km speed. It was sunset time. Slowly darkness prevailed. Three farm labourers who are walking along the road had all of a sudden crossed the road, without seeing the vehicles on the highway. They crossed the road just in front of my vehicle. I tried to avoid them. I could not control the Scooter. On the left side of the road there was a heap of metal stones. We fell on the heap of metal. My brother-in-law had no injuries. I had serious injuries around my left eye only and no more injuries on my body. My eye lenses along with the frame were broken to pieces. The three farm labourers, who came across the road, came to our rescue. One of them who lifted me shouted loudly, "This fellow has lost his eye". When he shouted loudly in this manner, at that very moment I realized that my left eyeball was intact. Immediately I queried my Lord, "What is this. I am expecting loss of my left eye sight. But it was not lost". "You have seen Good with the same eyes", came the response in a thrice. That means I have not lost my left eye sight. My Bliss knew no bounds. I have forgotten the serious injuries of my left eye. I had stitches at three places around my left eyeball. Very next day, I went to an Eye Specialist to check my eye sight. He clarified that no glass pieces has fallen into my eye. Seeing the impact and the injuries around the eyeball, the Doctor said that I am indeed very lucky to retain my left eyesight. This experience has changed the future course of my life.

This experience has not only proved and established the unseen Divinity but also revealed to me the exact precision with which the Formless attributes of the Lord will be active. This Scooter accident has given me an exact reply for my query related to the Law of Cause and Effect – nothing more and nothing less. The Formless attributes are beyond the comprehension of the human mind. But what a precision! When I analyse the entire incident for the finer details, our human mind fails to establish the actual facts of its execution. The only conclusion of the entire event is to realize that the Formless attributes are very powerful and acts with absolute precision.

For all interested souls, who want to realize God, and after Realisation to maintain a relation with the Formless Entity, these six qualities are again very important.

If we want to achieve Divinity through spirituality, we must introspect if we have true love for God. Today man is achieving many things in his life, but he is forgetting and neglecting spirituality and Divinity. Everyone must realize the Formless attributes of the Lord. This can be the greatest achievement of man on Earth. To make Divinity our goal, we need courage and detachment. "Less luggage, more comfort, make travel a pleasure", says Bhagawan Baba. We must make an integrated effort to start such a Journey. In this effort, we must always stick to the Righteousness under all odds. At no stage, we must retrace our steps back. At some point of time, we may not have physical and mental lapses, but we are not sure of our progress. We are at an inter junction between the finite and the infinite states. So don't get panic. At this point of time, submit your ego and pray God with surrender at His feet to take care of your latent weaknesses if any. Purify your mind. Broaden your heart. As you broaden your spiritual heart, the infinite state would be within your vicinity. At that point, your mind will accept the infinite state and slowly co-operates you in all your efforts. Until then, your mind will be the biggest hurdle. Practice the human values. These human values will bring out the best in you. You will slowly lose your selfish tendencies and mental weaknesses. In this context, you must always stick to your intelligences. You must continue your effort with Cheerfulness and Peace. As long as we are peaceful, we will become strong with enough patience. In this way, when we make our effort with these six qualities for God Realisation, we will receive abundant grace and blessings from our Lord. God will be with us every moment as He helps us achieve our goals. During this effort, we feel as if we have worked very hard, but after Realisation

we will realize that the real driving force behind us is our Supreme Master. He is responsible for all the transformation in us. We get entitled for Eternal Peace and Bliss, for all our efforts.

Bhagawan Baba in one of His discourses has said that in the past there were 80% Divine aspirants. But now, their count has come down to 20%. God Realisation is not at all an impossible task. One must possess these six qualities to achieve God Realisation. Why don't you try for yourself if you possess these six qualities? You need not sacrifice or move away from your daily routine. It is this daily routine of man which serves him as an excellent medium to achieve spiritual progress.

I shall narrate here a few of Baba's Divine manifestations which are beyond the comprehension of the human mind. All these Divine manifestations are beyond the reach of the five senses. They express the formless attributes of the Lord.

Bhagawan Baba at the age of 14 years declared about His Incarnation. Since then devotees thronged his place. During those days He used to go to the Chitravathi River daily at 4.00pm. From the Chitravathi riverbed, He used to manifest sweets from it. These sweets were very hot, fresh and made of Ghee. Over those sweets, Ghee was seen flowing over them. But the most astonishing fact is that there is not a speck of sand over these sweets.

Sitting on the Chitravathi sand bed, Baba used to manifest many things from thin air. Idols of various Divine forms were manifested by Bhagawan Baba. Those idols were red hot. Baba used to manifest those red hot idols and after showing them to the devotees He would place them aside on the sands. For these red hot idol manifestations, Baba's skin layers used to separate from His Palm. After some time His palm would become normal. Once the idols were cooled they were given to the assembled devotees there. The above events were narrated in Lokanatha Sai, written by Leelamma.

Samuel Sandweiss is an American Psychiatrist from San Diego, California. He actually landed in India to prove that Baba is fraud. But with his first sight of Bhagawan Baba, he changed his decision. He surrendered to Baba and since then i.e. from 1971 he became an ardent follower of Baba and wrote a few books about His Divinity.

Once, India paid host to a global Psychiatrists meet. The meeting was held at New Delhi, I suppose. Sandweiss developed a strong desire to bring all the Psychiatrists to Baba. He appealed to this effect. Around 150 Psychiatrists obliged his plea. Baba was in Bangalore at that time. They all came to Baba. Baba gave them an interview. They want to test Baba's Divinity. They requested Bhagawan Baba to manifest a thing which is unnatural in this nature. Baba spontaneously responded them by manifesting them with a twig containing two types of fruits in it. Seeing this materialisation, the Psychiatrists were surprised and satisfied.

Every November during the second weekend, Global Akhanda Bhajan was performed in all Sai Centers all over the Globe. It all started in 1944. At that time, only 8 families participated in the Bhajan. They were 50 in number and they made lunch preparations for 50 persons only. By the end of the Bhajan, 500 people gathered at the Bhajan, and Baba himself announced that they must take lunch and go. Lunch was prepared for 50 persons. How can this food serve 500 persons? The host was very much annoyed at Baba's unexpected announcement. Baba calmed down the host, by making the food 'Akshayyam' i.e. infinite. All the 500 persons who assembled there have finished their lunch but the food has still more stocks left. The host has again rushed to Baba and prayed Baba to empty the food stocks.

How Baba handles the five elements is beyond the comprehension of the human mind. On 29-7-1993, eight Australians had an interview with Baba. One of them was quite dull. He was worried about his wife's health at Australia. Baba asked that Australian, if he wants to be at his wife's place. He obliged Baba's proposal. From the personal interview room Baba moved this person directly from His interview room in Puttaparthi to Australia. The remaining seven Australians were stunned at this development. Baba told them to take care of his luggage. Immediately after the interview they called and talked to this Australian, who is now in Australia – to confirm Baba's words. No Visa, no Air flight, no physical medium of transportation, nothing. How is this possible? This is how the Divine works. We are a part of such Divinity. We all must realize and trust such Divinity. This is the real challenge for man. If we fulfill this challenge, then it is all bliss.

## 09. SPIRITUALITY

**SIX PRE-REQUISITES FOR SPIRITUALITY:** If you want to progress in Spirituality, you must adhere to the six qualities. They are 1) Good Behavior, 2) Good Intelligence, 3) Always Follow Truth, 4) Discipline, 5) Devotion and 6) Duty Bound. Spirituality is an integrated effort. With these six qualities man will progress spiritually. Lack of any of these qualities will not mean spirituality.

**1). Good Behavior:** What is Good Behavior? Good Words, Good Thoughts and Good Actions comprise Good Behavior. We must get habituated to these three qualities in our daily life. Those who adhere to good behavior will enjoy a lot of peace within.

**2). Good Intelligence:** Our mind which is supposed to control our senses may become a slave to our senses. But our intelligences always work beyond our senses. We have learned 11 types of intelligences. If we are not implementing the 11 type of intelligences mean, we are paving way for bad intelligences or inadequacies in our decision making. Getting habituated to all the 11 types of intelligences is therefore mandatory.

This good intelligence separates man from animals. Man is characterized into four types based on his behavior. They are animal, demonic, human and divine tendencies. He who utilizes all the 11 types of intelligences will lead a life with Divine qualities. What can be said about the rest?

**3). Always Follow Truth:** How can man improve or excel in life? We must lead a life based on Truth to get habituated to many good things in life. For most part of our life we practice good things. But on some occasions we commit bad. For occasionally committing bad, we don't know what we are losing. For an example: A student who is scoring 80% marks may feel satisfied with his marks. But he lacks another 20% marks. In the same way a student with 90% marks is satisfied with his 90% marks, but he lacks another 10% marks. Just as students score 100% marks in mathematics we must score 100% marks in spirituality too, says Baba. Hence we must always follow Truth to control our occasional lapses to score 100% in spirituality.

**4). Discipline:** Whoever it be, whatever be the place, whatever be the circumstances and whatever be the work, if one wants to complete the given task on a successful note, he needs Discipline. That means irrespective of a person, place, time and activity, it needs Discipline to complete the work on a successful note. Generally Discipline and Devotion in the initial stages are experienced as additional burden, says Baba. But once we realize the importance of Discipline, it becomes a part of our life. Hence we need the guidance of Teachers and elders to discipline our tasks.

**5). Devotion:** Spirituality is an integrated effort. Devotion is one of the six pre-requisites for spirituality. Spirituality is different from Devotion. A spiritual man will possess all the six good qualities of life. But a Devotional man, devoid of other pre-requisites may behave with animal and demonic tendencies too. Example: Ravana, a great devotee of Lord Siva, is full of six demonic qualities (the six sins which contaminate the mind) apart from the Vishaya Vaasanaas (which contract the spiritual heart). But a man who progress spiritually will cleanse his mind from the six sins and broaden his heart by practicing the human values. Today what is the status of our Devotion? We go to a temple, perform Idol worship, and after coming out of the temple not realizing the Divinity in man, we hate them. This is not devotion, says Baba.

As a part of Devotion, many among us practice Meditation with a lot of interest. With this meditation they want to control their mind. If we lack these six pre-requisites, can we achieve success

in meditation? No. All those who are interested in meditation, must introspect themselves for the practice of these six qualities in them. If they adhere to these six qualities, they can start meditation. Then will realize for yourself themselves, how smoothly the meditation progress.

Devotion is nothing but our love for God. When do we develop our love for our fellow beings? We love only those men, who help or serve us. God is the greatest servant of man. Those who receive God's help will really love God. Many among us perform religious rites to please God. This is not proper. If we perform religious rites to please God, then at some point of time we will end up with dissatisfaction? Instead of love, we will definitely develop hatred towards God for our unfulfilled desires.

Spirituality is different from Devotion. Man must aim to grow spiritually and not aim to grow devotionally alone. Devotion is only a part of spirituality. If we progress spiritually, it means we are on the right track. Then God is at our disposal to help us. All those who realized God's help in their progress, will always acknowledge God's help through 108 names or 1008 names of worship.

In what way Devotion helps man? Devotion helps man to adhere to good things of life under all odds, says Baba. All those devotees who have knowledge about the Formless attributes of our Lord will always adhere to good things in life. In this process, they will add many good qualities, leaving aside the unwanted bad traits in them.

**6). Duty Bound:** Our elders say that Duty is God. We must be duty bound. All those who are progressing spiritually will be duty bound all the way. In our Society,  $\frac{3}{4}$ th of our problems arise because we are not duty bound, says Baba. Not doing one's duty is one lapse. And unnecessarily getting involved in others duty is another lapse. If someone cried for some help and if we oblige them, then it is good. We must offer our services only to the needy.

**By not following Spirituality we are losing track of our Human Birth:** By not following these six pre-requisites of spirituality man is losing track of his precious human birth. Most men want to enjoy their human birth through their sense organs with the help of their money, wealth, possessions and comforts. Their lives can be compared to a Slate and a Chalk i.e. they will lead a life being limited to their body and mind. Such a life will not give permanent Bliss for them. They are neglecting their intelligences and the Spiritual Heart, which can pave way for permanent Bliss. As long as they are limited to their body and mind, they are not going to achieve anything in life. Thus they lose track and misuse their human birth.

The attitude to enjoy human life, getting limited to their body and mind is not proper. Let us observe their behavior. They are limited to Slate and a Chalk i.e. they are still learning the alphabets of their life. They are getting limited to their body and mind. As they are enjoying temporary benefits working with their body and mind, they take all things on a lighter vein. Lord Krishna, through His Bhagawad Gita has advised man, that as long as man is limited to his body and mind, he will only reap temporary happiness. How long can one get limited to his body and mind? Getting limited to the Body and Mind Consciousness, they are committing many lapses. In this context, we shall observe these lapses spiritually in relation to the six pre-requisites.

We are advised to follow Good Behavior. But how do the worldly men behave? They frequently speak bad words, speak ill of others, and speak false and harsh words. And coming to the deeds, they lack perfection. And coming to the thoughts, they are unstable. They entertain bad thoughts. All these men do not realize their lapses. If anybody wants to correct these men, then they

will either retaliate or defend their actions. They are habituated to an easy way of life. They are not serious to gain knowledge about human birth.

We are supposed to use all the 11 types of God given intelligences. But where do these worldly men stand. We do breathing exercises to eliminate the impurities present in our lungs. Those who don't practice these breathing exercises don't know the benefits of such exercises. In a normal course of breathing, a lot of impurities get accumulated in our lungs, and cause health problems to us. In the same manner, good intelligences too will follow suit. If we use all the 11 types of good intelligences, then we will be happy, else our intelligences will turn into bad intelligences. Our elders have taught us the Traditions and Culture for our spiritual progress. But we are neglecting them. As a result our intelligences are getting rusted.

Let us come to Always Follow Truth. Worldly men are easily habituated to bad habits and bad behavior. So they are on the other side of the coin. Always Follow Truth is applicable to only those who commits false occasionally.

And coming to the discipline, the worldly men do not follow discipline. An undisciplined life is full of failures. The Tamasik or the ignorant men did not know how to do their duty. And those who are in the Rajasik state i.e. those who are after wealth, riches and desires will disobey the rules and regulations, neglecting the discipline.

How is our status regarding Devotion? There are four types of Devotees. They are called Arthi, artharthi, Jignaasi and Gnaani. The ignorant person has a lot of body attachment and hence will pray God for body comforts and good health. The Rajasik person who is interested in desires will pray God for wealth, comforts and liberation. The Sathwik person wants to know about the unseen Divine philosophy and hence will pray God on these lines. And Gnaani will pray God for His proximity. God blesses them all with His Infinite attributes. In this way, God is helping and satisfying all. We all must do one thing. Like a creeper we must revolve around the Divinity for support.

And coming to the Duty, it is very important for our well being. It requires the Unity of Thoughts, Words and Deeds. All great men maintain this unity. What can we achieve with this unity of thought, word and deed? Baba gave a fitting reply, which must be followed by the entire humanity. This unity of thought, word and deed will bring "Yogam" i.e. Success. This success will gradually lead to perfection. This perfection will further develop into equanimity. This equanimity will be accepted universally. Everyone must attain this equanimity with his duty, says Baba. But where do the worldly men stand? They have no correlation between their thoughts, words and deeds. We live in a Society. When we lack unity of thoughts, words and deeds we not only loose peace for ourselves, but in the process will cause a lot of problems to all those around us.

We are failing in our duty but still make an all out effort for our Rights. This is not proper, says Baba.

**We must develop Spirituality as we develop in our life:** Man is amassing lot of wealth but still not satisfied. Why? All the physical wealth of the world cannot satisfy man. In this context man must develop interest towards Spirituality. As we develop Spirituality we add many good things in our life and in the process leave behind many unwanted and bad traits in us. In this process we will benefit both individually and spiritually. Our individual experiences will involve errors, but our spiritual experiences will be error free. Today, in our Society we are behaving physically and politically, speaking out our individual lapses, and thereby criticizing and blaming each other. This will not only spoil our mind but others minds too. Thus love is lost in our Society. On the other hand, we must get

habituated to spiritual blend of life, speaking our spiritual experiences. By speaking spiritual experiences, our knowledge will improve and we learn how to love our fellow beings. So in our Society we must promote spirituality to improve the living conditions of our Society.

Let us observe the individual and spiritual experiences once. We are going to School. Exams are conducted for the children. Children who score 35% marks are treated as pass. This means they are 65% below the target. But still they are promoted to a higher class. In Mathematics we can score 100%. Just like that, even in spirituality we can score 100%. How can we score 100% in spirituality? Practice spirituality with all the six pre-requisites. It becomes an easy task and we can achieve 100% spirituality.

As we gradually grew spiritually, we will develop kinship with our Indweller. Small children commit mistakes. They hide their mistakes from their elders, teachers and parents. Generally man will hide his mistakes within himself. Those children who never commit mistakes will move more closely with their parents and teachers, in a fearless and courageous manner. Likewise, as we improve spirituality, we develop a good rapport with our Indweller.

In our Society, we are enjoying spirituality in the range within 35% to 100%. In 35% spirituality there will be 65% lapses. In 50% spirituality there will be 50% lapses, and in 75% spirituality there will be 25% lapses. Hence, in a slow and steady manner we must achieve 100% spirituality in our lives.

We shall observe three different aspects of our Society, on spiritual grounds. We have corruption in the official level. An Officer with 35% spirituality will act as a free lancer in collecting bribes, and thereby misuses his power. An Officer with 50% spirituality will give a thought to ACB, but still will take advantage of his Official status in collecting bribes, and thereby misuses his power. An Officer with 75% spirituality will show some concern in collecting bribes. He says that he never demands bribes but accepts if given. But Officers with 100% spirituality are simply duty bound. They will do justice to their job. They will carry out their responsibilities without any second thoughts of collecting bribes. They follow work ethics. With their efficiency they attain perfection, equanimity, success and job satisfaction.

The second aspect is about our Doctors Profession in our Society. I have read “Inspired Medicine”, written by the Doctors of the Super Speciality Hospital, Puttaparthi. This book must be read by all Doctors and the patients. This book describes 3 types of Doctors and 3 types of patients. This book describes the change in attitudes of the Doctors as they improve spiritually.

**1. Professional Doctors:** As the name suggest they want to amass wealth through their profession. In the initial stages almost all doctors belong to this category. These Professional Doctors while doing Service in the Super Speciality Hospital, Puttaparthi have transformed themselves into Divine Doctors.

**2. Divine Doctors:** These Divine Doctors will realize God as the Supreme Healer and thereby realize the limitations of the physical doctor. These Divine Doctors have gradually transformed into Good Doctors.

**3. Good Doctors:** Good Doctors will see God in all patients and treat accordingly. They will do justice to their medical profession. Dr. Sarah Pawan has made the following remarks. “A Master Surgeon knows how to CUT, but God the Supreme Doctor knows how to HEAL”.

We have three types of Patients. They are

**1. Patients with Physical Ailments:** It seems that it is very easy for every Doctor to treat patients with physical ailments. Here the success rate is as high as 100%.

**2. Patients with Mental Ailments:** Treatment to mentally ailed cases will not achieve much success. This does not mean that the Doctors are inefficient. Here the medicines fail to cure the ailments.

**3. Patients with Chronic Ailments:** We see among us many chronic patients. Their sufferings are related to their Karmic effect. They will change many Doctors. When their Karmic effect is nullified, they get cured from their chronic ailments. Here again, if the treatment fails, it is not due to the Doctor's inefficiency.

Nowadays Medical Education and Medical treatment has become a very costly affair. A common man is unable to get proper medical treatment. Government Hospitals are doing good service to the poor and the common man. In this context, the Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, Mumbai have conducted a naval experiment. They invited all the Doctors of Mumbai to Puttaparthi. 300 Doctors have responded to this invitation. They reached Puttaparthi. What next? The organizers themselves do not know the outcome of this project. They stayed in Parthy for 3 days and have seen all the important places there. Before leaving, Baba gave them an interview to all Doctors. All the Doctors went back to Mumbai on a happy and satisfactory note. Out of the 300 Doctors who visited Puttaparthi, 150 Doctors came forward to offer their free services to the patients through the Organisation. Among these Doctors, some of the Doctors offered to do free service for half a day, and others for one full day per week. For such a loving response, the Organisation has conveyed its thanks and gratitude to Baba and the Doctors.

The third aspect is related to the Lawyers. On one occasion, during Darshan time, a lawyer introduced himself as a 'Lawyer' to Baba. Baba immediately responded 'don't be a liar'. When I told about this incident to my lawyer friends, they all responded by saying, that in today's legal profession, there can be no single case which is solved without involving lies. I felt surprised and sad to hear this from them. One of the Lawyer went on to narrate his personal experiences this way. During the beginning of his career, he used to get mostly divorce cases. He has won all his cases, so much so that he was referred to as a Divorce Lawyer. He said that speaking lies has become a part of his profession. This lawyer has a pretty family with a son and a daughter. But at home, he frequently faced petty quarrels with his wife. He loved his family but he was restless at home. He consulted an Astrologer for his restlessness, who after getting the details of his profession, advised him to give up divorce cases and perform Sri Venkateswara Swami Kalyanam at Tirupathi. The lawyer followed the Astrologer's advice and gave up divorce cases, and went to Tirupathi. I appreciated him for his decision making. Even if it is a divorce case, I advised him to take up genuine cases – without involving lies. From this it becomes clear, that in the beginning of one's career, in order to gain money and experience all cases are taken up. After a few months, I met the same lawyer, who has to go to a nearby district to deal a fake currency case. In this fake currency case, three men were arrested by the Police and taken into custody. The police will not listen to the relatives of these 3 culprits. The Police will mediate only through a lawyer.

Generally any case is dealt between two parties. But here, in this fake currency case, culprits and the Society form the two sides. "Any harm done to the Society must not be entertained. The culprits must be booked and thoroughly punished for their offences", I told my lawyer friend. Having taken up this case already, he promised me that in future he will not take up such cases. After this

dialogue, this lawyer was on his way to mediate with the Police. Midway through their journey they came to know that the 3 culprits were released, and hence this lawyer returned back home. But this is not true. The 3 culprits were not released. So the culprits relatives again approached this lawyer the next day to mediate with the Police. But on this occasion, this lawyer has refused them saying that he was busy with other assignments. This lawyer called and told me how the case has unfolded, and that he has given up this case. I really appreciated him for responding to my suggestion. Next day morning, this fake currency case was reported in the local newspaper, stating that 3 culprits were booked. After reading this report, I again called up this lawyer and appreciated him for his truthfulness by saying, "All those who do damage to the Society must be punished. And it is our responsibility to safeguard our Society". This lawyer felt happy with my words and told me that there must be men like me to guide them from committing such lapses.

Korba is a visiting Law Professor at Baba's college at Puttaparthi. Mr.Korba has written a spiritual book on Bhagawan Baba, based on his personal experiences. Korba was a Muslim. I am narrating here an incident of his book. Once this Professor's son got involved in an illegal activity and got booked by the local Police. This Professor influenced the Police to get his son released from the Police. This Professor hails from the Maharastra. This incident happened at his place of residence. After this incident, Korba as usual made a visit to Puttaparthi. Baba while giving Darshan came to this Professor and remarked. "If your son got involved in an illegal act, what will you do? You will get him released from the clutches of Law and the Police. Is it not? But can you save him from God's punishment"? Hearing Baba's remarks, this Professor felt ashamed and guilty.

So just like Doctors, the lawyers follow suit. The Professional Lawyers will entertain each and every case for the sake of money and experience. The Divine Lawyers will remember God before taking up a case. And the Good Lawyers will not accept any wrong cases. So in the same way, every Profession presents its three states of spirituality. As they progress in life some may change their attitude, but this may not be the case with all. Family atmosphere, living conditions and the Surroundings contribute to their transformation.

Those who are working in the Government Offices are collecting bribes as if it is their birth right. Doctors who are supposed to save the patients lives are doing business with their patients. Today they all defend themselves for their acts. They are just living to amass wealth. Human Values are nowhere to be found in them. We are all humans. Man commits many lapses. But their mistakes can be taken care of. But they are not inclined to such a change. Why? They are in the dark and all those around them are also in the dark. It appears as if they are relishing the dark conditions. Staying in the dark, one cannot guide others towards the light. Man is supposed to stay in the light. Those who are in the light must focus light on the dark areas. Staying in the dark, we do not know where we are moving. Those who are in the dark must make amends to come into the light. All those who are in the dark will lead a life full of fears, miseries and restlessness. Those who live in the light will lead a fearless and courageous life. Today we need Fearless and Courageous men to lead us from darkness to light. We have plenty of such men, but they need some motivation through spirituality.

**Spirituality must be properly analysed and understood:** Once Bhagawan Baba has stated to all those who have assembled around him thus, "I shall grant salvation to all of you, provided there is one condition". What is that condition? "You are not supposed to repeat your follies". All spiritual aspirants must analyse this message.

The essence of spirituality lies in realising one's own follies says Bhagawan Baba. In this context every spiritual aspirant must realise his own follies and must not repeat them again. This

attitude promotes the God seekers more closer towards their goals. After reaching their goals, they will realise how close they were towards their destination during their progress. Spiritual seekers commit very few mistakes. But not realising their lapses they repeat their mistakes again and again. When there is divine fervor in them, they will not only realise their follies, but will not repeat them again.

Men commit mistakes knowingly or unknowingly. But man is not taking these mistakes seriously to rectify them. Our indweller is constantly guiding all of us with our lapses. But what are we doing? Having immersed in this physical mundane, we are neglecting our Indweller's advice.

Man is aware of many spiritual practices for his salvation. To attain salvation man need not practice all these spiritual practices. But instead, realising his own follies is the best spiritual practice of any seeker. After realising the lapse, not repeating it is the most simple and best way for spiritual progress.

The supreme Lord dwells in our heart. God is pleased with our broad heart, and is least concerned with our mind's intellectual powers. Not realising this, most of the spiritual seekers want to realise the unseen God through their intellect (mind). Using their intellect, man cannot make spiritual progress. They must get rid of their Ego and illusion to realise their lapses and drive them out. Purity of mind followed by the broadening of the heart enables steady spiritual progress.

# 10. ATTRIBUTES AS TAUGHT IN BHAGWAD GITA

We have religious texts to guide and command us. But man is neglecting the religious texts. Lord Krishna has conveyed His Universal message to the Humanity through Bhagawad Gita. In this Gita, there are many aspects which guide man for his all round development. One of the topics is “Attributes”. There are three types of Attributes in man. They are the Tamasik, Rajasik and the Sathwik states. The Spiritual progress of man is related to these three attributes. All the qualities of each state had been clearly explained in Gita. We have the best knowledge available in books, but we are not utilizing this knowledge. This knowledge is confined to books only. This is the reason for our sufferings. The knowledge of these attributes will serve man as a mirror to depict his spiritual status.

When should we learn these attributes? How man can learn this knowledge? If only these attributes are taught to children at school level, then each and every child will learn the lessons of his life. Education is of two types. They are Physical and Spiritual education. Physical education is what we learn at schools and colleges. This helps us with a job. On the other hand the Spiritual education helps us to lead a purposeful life. Physical Education is a Mind Game, whereas Spiritual Education is related to our Heart. If Physical Knowledge paves way for temporary happiness, then the Spiritual Knowledge will pave way for permanent Bliss. In this context, the Attributes of Bhagawad Gita assumes importance for man’s life. We are keeping aside this Spiritual Knowledge. We are neglecting and limiting this knowledge to just books. Hence, this Spiritual Knowledge is grasped by only those who go through the Gita. The rest of the Humanity is ignorant of this man-making Spiritual Knowledge. In our daily lives, if we lack this wonderful Knowledge, we will opt for a wrong path. We are neglecting the religious texts, which illumine us. They guide us overcome all calamities in our life. They help us to gain strength to overcome all dualities of our life. But the sorry state of our affairs is that we are not showing any interest in these religious texts. If we neglect and oppose these religious texts in this way, it means we are neglecting the good things of our life. So let us realize our folly. We must bend the sapling when it is young. We cannot bend it when it has grown into a big tree. So we must incorporate all good things of life to our children at a young age, so that they can make good use of this knowledge to be good citizens of our Nation.

Nowadays, we see a lot of men attending to Personality Development classes and getting benefitted in the process. The knowledge of Bhagawad Gita is nothing but personality development only. After becoming elders we are preferring personality development into our lives. But we are neglecting this knowledge to our children at a young age. As children they can reap better benefits with this knowledge than as elders.

The message of Lord Krishna through Gita has Universal application. Let us recollect what Baba has said about the Unity of Thought, Word and Deed. This Unity leads to efficiency, which in turn leads to Perfection and then into Equanimity. The knowledge of these attributes help man to achieve Unity of Thought, Word and Deed.

For God to Manifest from unmanifest, there must be a reason. This reason is called Mahakaarana, the Great Reason. From this great reason emerged the Ego. From this Ego emerged the Five Elements. The entire Nature is formed by the five elements. This nature has three attributes namely the Tamasik, Rajasik and the Sathwik. Man is comprised of Body, Mind and the Soul. As these attributes form a part of Nature, they naturally pave their way into the human behavior patterns. Among God’s creation Human Birth is most auspicious. God blessed man with Intelligence. Man

must advance spiritually and improve from his present state to a better state utilizing his intelligences. But man is not utilizing the God given intelligences adequately. In a Spiritual path, our Intelligences are put to optimum use.

Based on these attributes four types of Human Behavior is realized in our Society. Man can be a Beast, a Demon, a Human or a God. In this way, we have four types of men around us.

In this nature, everything is characterized by its behavior. All things in this world will obey this law. The nature of our Soul is to enjoy Bliss. The nature of a liquid is to flow down. Based on the nature and behavior, everything will enjoy its VALUE. Man is supposed to live as Man and is expected to improve as Divine. It is not proper for man to express beastly and demonic qualities.

Our elders had passed on to us our Customs, Traditions and Culture to follow. If we follow them, we will be more civilized. It is easy for all of us to progress, following in the footsteps of our elders. This civilization will enhance our VALUE. Today if man practices Human Values forever, then such a man will be blessed with 18 Divine qualities, says Baba.

Based on these attributes, man is characterized into 4 types in our Society. Seeing a man behave like a beast, can we call such a man as 'a beast'? No. If we address him as a beast, he cannot tolerate and accept it. He will readily cause harm to us. He is not in a position to accept his lapses because of his ignorance. Due to their ignorance, they will cause harm to those who want to do good to them. Similarly, in our Society we face men with demonic qualities, who with their selfish tendencies will behave in an inhuman way. These men with their demonic qualities will cause lot of sufferings to others and enjoy in the process. Can we call such men 'Demons'? No. These demons will naturally torture us. We are afraid of buying problems from these demons. In our Society we cannot entertain people with beastly and demonic qualities. In our Society, we enjoy men with human and divine qualities.

What can we infer from above? Beastly and demonic qualities are of no use to the Society. They are wasting their Human Birth. They not only cause trouble to others, but also will suffer in the process. It is always better for all of us to follow human values and lead a human life. And all those men who attained Divine qualities will sacrifice their interests for the sake of our Society.

Attributes are of three types namely Tamasik, Rajasik and Sathwik. In this nature every living being is subjected to change. In the same way, even man must undergo changes. Example: We have a mango bud. This is the Tamasik state. It tastes sour. This mango bud will change into unripened mango. This is the Rajasik state. This tastes bitter. This unripened mango then changes into a ripened mango. This is the Sathwik state. It tastes sweet. If we leave the ripened mango in this state for a few days, it gets spoiled. So the ripened mango must be placed at the lotus feet of Lord. Likewise, after reaching the Sathwik state, man must go beyond the Sathwik state by sacrificing his life for the good of the Society.

**Tamasik Qualities:** Ignorance is the hallmark of Tamasik state. Here the body attachment dominates. Due to ignorance and body attachment, these men desire for body pleasures. Their ignorance and body attachment will result in another 35 Tamasik qualities in them. They are easily disillusioned. They lack patience and intelligence. They are inexperienced. They sleep a lot. They are egoistic. They express pride, neglect, fear and sufferings. They interfere in good acts. They lack memory power. They lack faith. They neglect rules and regulations. They lack discrimination. They boost themselves and pretend to know everything. They behave in an unfriendly manner and get habituated to bad practices. They entertain evil and wicked thoughts. They develop negative feelings. They cannot work

in a group. They fail to complete deeds on a successful note. They do meaningless acts. They get tired quickly and express many weaknesses. They lack sense control. They are unable to control their bad, sinful and evil acts. They speak ill of God and Brahmins (learned men). They neglect and oppose religious texts.

Man must realize his Tamasik attributes on his own. After learning them he must leave them behind. Our ignorance will vanish in the presence of Illumination. So man must make it a habit to read and follow Religious texts to move from ignorance to illumination.

**Rajasik Qualities:** Men with Rajasik attitude will have many DESIRES. They aim to amass wealth. In order to fulfill their desires and to amass wealth, they possess both good and bad qualities in them. Rajasik men are better than the Tamasik men. Example: They want to start a business. They lay down rules and regulations to conduct the business in an orderly way. So far so good. But the same men will break them for selfish purposes. This means Rajasik men do both good and bad acts simultaneously.

The different Rajasik attributes are as follows. They lack ignorance. They know what is good and what is bad. They deliberately do bad acts. Man is a Social animal but these men will not follow the rules and regulations of the Society. They lead a selfish life. They harm others. They work hard. They entertain physical beauty. They are accustomed to the dualities of life like happiness and sufferings, hot and cold weather. They are power mongers. They cause battles, make peace efforts and also negotiate many matters. They argue. They are never satisfied. They express patience, strength, courage, pride and extreme anger. They behave excessively. They are jealous of others. They hate others. They want to protect themselves, but are ready to kill others. They deal with buying and selling. They destroy, capture and occupy others possessions. They are cruel, wicked and find fault with others. They immerse in worldly affairs. They express Anxiety, animosity, hatred and speak lies. They lack self belief. They doubt all. They talk more. They defend and boost themselves. They belittle and also respect others. They serve others. They are good intellectuals. They have logic. They behave cleverly. They disagree with others. They make and break promises. They do sanctified acts like performing Yagnams, rituals, etc. They encourage education, gifts. They claim excuses. They have devotion. They commit thefts. They hide things and their desires. They express restlessness. They express show and pomp. They gamble. They partake in illegal activities. They promote cultural activities like music, dance etc.

Rajasik men who possess these attributes will think of past, present and the future. These Rajasik men show interest in religious activities, wealth and possessing body pleasures. Man in order to achieve his desires is behaving so.

**Sathwik Qualities:** Good Qualities serve as the basis for Sathwik men. These men with their good qualities want to attain LIBERATION. In order to attain liberation, they will gradually leave all their bad traits and in the process add many good features in them. Let us learn all these Sathwik qualities. They express satisfaction. They lead an ideal life. They are the illumined people. They want to enjoy happiness, freedom and comfort. They are fearless. They believe others. They pardon others. They are courageous. They do no harm but serve others. They express equanimity. They follow Truth. They are compassionate. They entertain purity of mind and good intelligences. They aim for efficiency in their deeds. They show a lot of interest towards Divine Philosophy and yogic practices. They possess and promote good behavior. They want liberation through service. They shed their ego. They reduce their desires. They are confident, detached. They are proactive. They speak politely. They are plain at heart. They understand things with a lot of clarity. They never crave for others possessions. They lead a

selfless life. They never commit bad deeds. They follow righteousness. They go beyond the dualities of life. They lack ignorance and desires.

Tamasik men possess more of Ignorance and less of desires and good qualities.

Rajasik men possess more of Desires, but less of Ignorance and good qualities.

Sathwik men will possess more of good qualities, but lack Ignorance and desires.

Every one must learn the knowledge of these three qualities. Everyone must realize his own lapses to overcome them in order to progress spiritually.

**The impact of these attributes on our Society:** In our Society, today we have men with these three categories. They are acting as decision makers and laying down rules and regulations for us. What will be the status of our Society, if Tamasik men act as decision makers and lay down rules and regulations for us? If these Tamasik men act as decision makers, then instead of progress, our Society will incur losses and damage. What if Rajasik men act as decision makers for us in our society? If Rajasik men form rules and regulations, then our Society will remain as it is without achieving any progress. What if Sathwik men act as decision makers in our Society? If these Sathwik men lay down rules and regulations, then our Society will achieve all round development and progress.

**My ignorance as a Student:** Right from an early age I was influenced by many issues. All the issues are related to the dualities of life. Why some men are born rich and some men are born poor? Why some men are born with good health and others with bad health? Why some men are born with good physique while others as handicapped? Why some are suffering while others are enjoying. Why some are born as intellectuals while others remain as ordinary men? Why in this Society some are doing good acts while others prefer bad acts? For all these dualities I used to feel that God is responsible for them. I really had no clue over these issues and answers to such issues are not obtained in our education curriculum.

But as we grow, Time and Experience will supplement us with suitable answers. Only he who has queries will eagerly wait for the answers and get responses with time. But if there are no such questions in us, then there is no need for the answers.

#### **My Clarifications over the years:**

- India is a land of Karma i.e. Action. Good actions will reap good results. Bad actions will reap bad results.
- Saint Ramadas has suffered 12 years of imprisonment. Why? In his house, he caged a Parrot.
- Nobody on earth can escape the fruits of one's actions. When the end comes even Lord Krishna has left His body, being shot dead by a bowman's arrow.
- Pandavaas are Righteous, whereas Kauravaas followed an unrighteous path. Even though pandavaas are only 5 in number, they can ultimately win over Kauravaas. Righteousness prevails over evil in the end.
- Human life is not a bed of roses. Along with roses it will have thorns too. Man has lot of expectations in his life. Man wills but God destines. So whatever is the outcome for our actions, we must always maintain positive attitude and develop faith in God.
- Once Lord Krishna was injured. At that time, there were many close relatives nearby, but it was Draupadhi who responded to Krishna's injury. In response to Draupadhi's act, Lord Krishna has saved her chastity.

In this way, I had a few answers for my queries and I am satisfied with them.

**A few more queries:** Why all men are not born as equals. Why some are born tall and why some are born short? Why some are born fat and why some as pale? Why some are born with fair complexioned and vice versa? Why some are born white and why others as black? For all these questions I had answers when I was studying in my Inter. I was a Biology student. We had a Genetics Chapter. I have learned how man carries with him the hereditary characteristics from his parents to the off-springs. This is a great lesson for me. I felt very happy. If you look out for answers, you will have technical answers for some of the dualities.

We must blend our daily acts with spirituality. When I was 24 years old, I started reading religious texts. I could clarify many of my doubts, and could gain a lot of knowledge. As a result my interest to read the religious texts grew. I continued reading since then as I gained knowledge from each and every good book. In our daily life, we get habituated to many routine things. We practice all these routine things without any clarity. But by reading the religious texts, even our daily core of activities will have more meaning. This will improve our living conditions and thereby happiness. We can supplement technical answers to all those who are around us. I have not read the Bhagawad Gita until I was 50 years old. Gita is the most useful religious text available to man, to achieve success in life. I have read Bhagawan Baba's summary on Gita. This reading was very special for me. This knowledge has elevated me to new heights. I enjoyed a lot of Bliss for gaining such knowledge. In 87 SMS messages (each message of the size of 4-6 SMS size), I have forwarded the Gita messages to 150 friends. What a great book this Gita is? This book clears all our doubts.

Bhagawad Gita has answered all my queries of my childhood days, but by the time I have realized the answers, I was 50 years old. If I have got these answers at a young age, I would have benefitted much more.

Among the different aspects, these "Attributes" aspect is a very important one. From these attributes every individual can learn about his personal behavior and thereby improve personally.

Nowadays, for corporate jobs, priority is given for selecting good candidates and not for intellectuals. The corporate houses have enough intellect talents at their disposal, but are lacking good personnel to implement the available talent to perfection. In the days to come the corporate houses will give top priority to good men. Rajasik men mean intellectuals and Sathwik men means good working personnel along with intellect.

**What they say about Bhagawad Gita:** Many great souls have expressed the greatness of Bhagawad Gita.

- Just like a garland, all righteous acts are arranged in a systematic order in Gita – Swami Vivekananda.
- I am speaking Truth. You might never have come across such an ocean of knowledge as in Bhagawad Gita – Mahatma Gandhi.
- The entire spiritual knowledge available in the world cannot match the contents of Bhagawad Gita. This knowledge will guide us to Liberation – Bala Gangadhar Tilak.
- The most intellectual human on earth can contribute only a fraction of Bhagawad Gita – Aurobindo Ghosh.
- There is depth in the contents. It supplements equanimity to the readers. The entire contents have universal applications – Malayala Swami.

- Among the spiritual literature available, Bhagawad Gita stands supreme. It is an infinite knowledge of wealth which never decreases. It is Blissful – Sivananda Saraswathi.
- My mother's milk has helped me develop my physical body. Likewise Bhagawad Gita has helped my intelligences to develop as a major force – Acharya Vinobha Bhave.
- As far as my intellect allows me, there is no other book which is more profound than Bhagawad Gita. This Gita must not be limited to Hindus only. It must be followed by all humans – Madan Mohan Malaviya.
- The entire English literature without Bhagawad Gita will remain incomplete – Edwin Arnold.
- For all those who want to attain higher spiritual knowledge, Bhagawad Gita will help them as a guide – Warren Hastings.
- The integrity of Righteousness and the universal applicability of the Bhagawad Gita will never be found in the history of mankind – Bankim Chand Chatterjee.

**Bhagawad Gita at School and College level:** Bhagawad Gita teaches man the lessons of his life. As such it must be read by all humans irrespective of their caste, color, race or religion. How this can be possible? It can be made possible, if the various aspects of Bhagawad Gita are made available to students at school and college level. Bhagawad Gita is not confined to one particular religion. In fact, Gita belongs to the religion of humanity. Bhagawad Gita is nothing but personality development. We claim that today's youth are the future citizens of the country. If we really have true love for them, if we really want them to be good citizens, then they must have a strong foundation through the knowledge of Bhagawad Gita from school level. This is a great opportunity for all our elders to put things on a right prospective.

# 11. THE PHILOSOPHY OF GOD'S LOVE - DIVINE INVOLVEMENT

Knowingly or unknowingly in the path of Spirituality, we commit some lapses. But God is Love personified. God corrects us in a loving manner. We all must develop Love towards God to learn about this DIVINE CONNECTION one day or the other.

During my childhood, I used to feel that God is responsible for all the dualities of our life. This was due to my ignorance and lack of knowledge. God is an Eternal Witness. God acts like a Postman. A Postman just delivers the letters. Likewise God will hand over the fruits of one's actions. Unable to understand this philosophy, man is blaming God for all his sufferings. In this context, we all must realize that God is blemish less. So it is not proper on the part of man to blame and hate God. In this way, man is neglecting God and distancing himself from God. But the truth is that God is always at our disposal to help us. Towards such a God, we must develop closeness and Kinship. The most unfortunate men are those who neglect God in their lives.

God has infinite love towards humanity. It is a rare and God given opportunity for man to be born as human. It is the most blessed living being on earth. The loving God has not left us alone. As an Indweller He has become a part of our lives to guide us every moment. We all must obey our Indweller, to realize the purpose of human life and the latent potentialities to progress spiritually. God is making many efforts to help man realize his goals. For God, man is very important. But man being involved completely in his physical mundane world, is unable to realize God's love and His efforts to help man. In order to realize the philosophy of our Loving God, we all must as a first step adopt to an inward path.

Nimish Pandya, the Vice President of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, India has once narrated God's Infinite Love towards the mankind, through his personal experience. Mr.Pandya has the habit of taking 'Paada Namaskar' from Baba, before leaving Puttaparthi to back home at Mumbai. On one such occasion when Pandya asked Baba's permission to take leave for Mumbai, Baba remarked, "When you are not listening to My advice, why do you need My permission". To these remarks of Baba, Pandya was shocked and politely remarked "When Baba"? Baba laughingly replied, "At home you are eating a lot of sweets. When you take the first sweet, I am keeping quiet. But when you are ready with the second sweet, I am saying 'no' from within. But without heeding to My advice you are taking the third sweet too". This is how our Indweller expresses his concern and Love for man.

**God is Man's only Friend:** God is love personified. He is kind, compassionate and peace giver. Such God is within us. We are unable to realize such a wonderful God, within each one of us. This sorry state of man is because of his ignorance, ego and his lapses. Our Indweller within us is our well wisher and a true friend. We must develop friendship with such a Lord. In order to realize this truth, I shall narrate a small incident. Baba once called a school boy and asked him, "How many brothers and sisters you have"? The boy replied that he has only one brother. Baba responded to this boy by saying, "All those who have assembled here are your brothers and sisters". After some time Baba called the same boy and asked him "How many friends do you have"? Recollecting what happened a few moments ago, this boy replied, "All those who are present here are my friends". Baba corrected him by saying, "No. God is your only friend". Yes what Bhagawan Baba has said is true. There are 9 steps of devotion and the 8th step is friendship. Those who enjoy this Divine friendship will surrender to God to enjoy Kinship with God.

**Practice is Important:** Who can realize God's help? Only those who practice the Divine message will realize the Divine Love. The rest will really fail to understand God's Love and Philosophy. Most of us have faith in God. Most of us appreciate God's advice but they go no further. But those who implement God's advice and realize God's love will really make efforts to share their Divine Knowledge involved in practice. Generally, we carry on our daily routine without having enough Divine Knowledge. In this context, we must give importance to the Divine Knowledge and make efforts to implement them. I shall narrate here such Divine Knowledge which not only add many good things into our life, but also increase the efficiency of our actions.

**Realise the differences between the Values:** In our Society, we are following different values. They are Moral values, the Righteous values and the Spiritual values. As we are unaware of these values, naturally we will not have any idea about their differences. "Speak Truth" is a Moral value. "Speak Truth politely and sweetly" is the Righteous value. "While speaking Truth never hurt others" is the Spiritual value. If we speak truth in a harsh manner, it will not become truth. While speaking truth, when someone is hurt, then again it is not truth. Today we must realize the precision of these different values. Today, most of us feel happy for following moral values. They must realize that Righteous values are better than the moral values, and that Spiritual values are better than the Righteous values. Without realizing these differences we cannot progress spiritually.

Right from my younger days I always spoke truth. I never spoke lies. I used to feel pride and little egoistic for this. I do not know my lapses. I used to feel fearless even towards God. This was my status during my younger days. Man is limited whereas God is Infinite. How can a finite man compare himself with Almighty God? This is simply ignorance. The loving God has lovingly patted me on my back and my ignorance has gone.

I adhered to truth on all conditions. The idea to speak lies was never there in my mind. After realizing the differences between the moral values, righteous values and the spiritual values, I realized the precision of these values. I learned my lapses in the process. I accepted these values with a lot of love. I relish and enjoy these values so much so, that I explained them to many souls.

**Knowledge of Thought, Word and Deed:** In Poorva Meemaamsa, the correlation between thought, word and deed is best explained. This knowledge will not only help us to put things into right perspective in practice but also improve our efficiency. In Poorva Meemaamsa Knowledge related to actions is called "Karma Jignaasa", Knowledge related to mind is called "Dharma Jignaasa" and the knowledge related to word is called "Brahma Jignaasa".

Man is performing many deeds. The knowledge of doing deeds is called Karma Jignaasa. This involves our 'Body'. What will happen if we do not apply our mind while performing acts? Many lapses will occur. This means, man is not satisfied with his Karma jignaasa. This Karma Jignaasa realizes the need for mental faculties while performing our acts. So we add Dharma Jignaasa to our Karma Jignaasa i.e. we apply our mind while doing our acts. At this stage we are applying our body and mind while performing our acts. Even working with our body and our mind, we are still not satisfied with our actions. Why and what next? We must think of our God, while doing our acts. That means we must add Brahma Jignaasa to our Karma Jignaasa and our Dharma Jignaasa. This Brahma Jignaasa involves our "WORDS". Our actions will be completed only when it involves thought, word and deed. Such actions will be complete in all respects and give total satisfaction to man.

With a lot of Love towards mankind, God is residing in all of us as an Indweller, to guide and serve us. He is helping us and guiding us in all our acts. In this context, we must always think of God

while doing all our acts. When we get habituated doing our acts with thought, word and deed, we will very soon realize how well and easily our tasks will be accomplished.

**Power of Desire, Knowledge and Implementation:** God has a lot of love towards mankind. Through this message we get a chance to realize our own mistakes during implementation, and also realize the status of our deeds. In every man there are three powers namely the power of desire, the power of knowledge and the power of implementation. From the power of desire emerge the power of knowledge. From these powers of desire and knowledge, emerge the power of implementation. Example: I want to drink Coffee. To drink Coffee is my power of desire. Just by having this desire, Coffee is not served to me. I have to make ready with all the items required for Coffee preparation like Coffee powder, milk, sugar, stove, utensils, water etc. The power of knowledge will take care of all the requirements needed for the preparation of coffee. Even at this state, the coffee is still not ready. With all these things in hand, we must implement the coffee preparation, and only then our desire will be fulfilled.

In this context of the Divine message, we must realize the importance of human birth. God with a lot of love guides us to fulfill the goal of human birth. The power of desire in Spirituality is to merge in God. In order to achieve this we must develop love, faith and contemplate on God. All these three comprise the power of Knowledge. With these pre-requisites we will gradually experience the Divinity within us. The moment we start experiencing the Divinity within us, our desire for God Realisation will become very strong and enable us to achieve it quite comfortably in the end.

**When God Descends on Earth, We all must Reach Him:** When God descends on Earth to shower His love on humanity we must realize this Incarnation. God takes birth in human form to explain the good things of life with much authority and precision. With His ideal life He guides us from doing bad. God's message has Universal application. So when God takes a human form, leaving aside our physical limitations like caste, creed, color, race and religion, we all must reach, accept and follow Him.

How to realize the God in human form? Our family members live in our presence. Even our friends and relatives move closely with us. We all know their behavior. But with their behavior who will inspire us? Very few or none. But here the Incarnation with His ideal life and message is inspiring all those who reach Him. Our friends and relatives always guide us well but within certain limitations. But the Incarnation with His Universal message will break all the barriers. Baba has prescribed 7 qualities to realize an Incarnation. They are He will possess all forms of Wealth, He remains detached, He has abundant Knowledge, He enjoys Name, Fame and Glory, He will participate in the Creation, Sustenance, Maintenance and Dissolution acts. He will guide the humanity with his universal message. Once we come across such an Incarnation, we must never miss an opportunity to meet Him.

Today, Incarnations like Rama, Krishna, Shirdi Sai and Parthi Sai are not in our midst. But we still follow their message. Even our future generations will follow them. Not only the Incarnation, but spiritual giants like Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Ramana Maharshi, Aurobindo Ghosh, Sri Adi Sankara, etc with their message guided mankind to new spiritual heights. The message of the Incarnation and the advanced souls will revolve around the knowledge of thought, word and deed along with the power of desire, knowledge and implementations. Their message will lead man from a finite state to an infinite state. I shall narrate a few of my experiences, which clearly reveal the Divine Involvement.

**Divine Involvement:** Every day we do many acts. All these acts are related to action, wherein we are utilizing our body. If we do acts without involving our mind, then we will commit mistakes. So we must act in coordination with our mind. So far so good. All our neighbors, relatives and family members always guide us in the range of body and mind levels. Even we are predetermined to receive and appreciate the suggestions at these two levels only. So we are not making a room for Divine Involvement in our daily acts. Man wants Divine Involvement only at the time of his sufferings. The difference between a common man and a Spiritual man is very simple. A common man will get limited to his daily activities at his body and mind level only, whereas Spiritual men apart from the body and their mind will also entertain Divine Involvement (words) in all their acts.

How is our daily routine? If we are immersed in worldly activities then in the spiritual field, our power of desire may not reach the implementation stage. On the other hand, when we are get detached from worldly matters, then our power of desire can reach the state of implementation.

In 1992, in Ravulapalem, our native place, we dismantled our 100 years old tiled house and constructed in its place a new house with a plinth area of 1980 sq ft. In this house we had a hall of around 750 sq ft. I used to look after the construction work from morning to evening. I used to chant God's name all the while. That means, I opened the way for Divine Involvement. The construction work which started in March, 1992 was completed in all respects by June first week. The work was completed very fast. I did not have enough financial resources to complete such a big building. After the construction, we enjoyed a lot of Bliss. It is a dream come true construction. Our house gave happiness not only to us but also to all our Sathya Sai members. This inbuilt Hall, provided in our house, being called as Sathya Sai Mandir, has housed many Spiritual Activities since 1992 until 2006.

In 2006, we have shifted our Mandir from the ground floor to the first floor. As Sai devotees have increased over the years in Ravulapalem, we decided to have a big hall. On the first floor we have built a 1500 sq ft hall. Until then, I used to pray daily for only five minutes. But after shifting the Mandir to the first floor, I used to do Omkaram, chant poems loudly so that all those who are nearby can benefit by hearing. Thereafter I used to sit for some time in meditation. Five to six months passed. One day when I was meditating I clearly heard a voice from within addressing me, "Construct a building that will help tens of people, with your experience". I heard these words in Bhagawan Baba's talking mode. Immediately after hearing these words, I felt very inconvenient for a few moments. The reason being I had no land and finances to construct this building. In a few moments, I reconciled. If God thinks so, then nothing can prevent it. It will be manifested. My ego to construct this building has vanished that very moment. And the second aspect involved is 'My Experience'. "Before Your Experience, where does my experience stand", I submitted humbly to God without any traces of Ego. I have decided to make use of my body, thoughts and words for this building. But, I had no other details of the God ordained building. The building must be used to tens of people. What does that mean? Government is constructing houses for the poor. Likewise should I construct 10 such houses for the poor? Thinking on these lines, I have decided to construct a building that can accommodate 108 families. I have neither land nor money to construct such a building. But I still decided to go ahead with this project. I have decided to procure 1000 sq yards of land for this building with a loan, and later build a 3 storey building to accommodate 108 families. Each portion will have a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom and a lavatory. During my lifetime, I have decided to implement it as my mission. I have told about this mission to my family members and to some of my close associates, who appreciated my stand. For the next two years, I have made efforts to procure a land for the said building. All my efforts proved in vain. I do not remember, having told about my mission to my younger brother, Srinivasa Nagi Reddy, who used to stay in Hyderabad. But, in November, 2008, one fine morning, he suddenly came to Ravulapalem and told me that he has decided to donate his 600 sq

yards of land, for Bhagawan Baba's Mandir. My brother has two daughters and he is not that rich to donate such a valuable land, which was then estimated at around 75 Lakh rupees. So I tried to pacify him from taking this decision. But he was very much determined. At this juncture, I called Mr.Vardhana Rao, who plans and implements all Sai Service activities in Ravulapalem, and told him about my brother's proposal. In the same lines, even Mr.Vardhana Rao tried to pacify my brother. But my brother was still determined. Seeing my brother's determination, we both of us felt very happy to accept the 600 sq yards of his land for Bhagawan Baba's Mandir (Service Center). My brother has handed over this land with full faith on both of us i.e. me and Vardhana Rao. So nobody expected that the land for the said building will be procured in this way. Such a costly land, and at such a convenient serene place was procured for the said building. How is this possible? Is this not Divine Involvement?

As soon as my brother Srinivasa Nagi Reddy donated this land for the Sai Mandir, the Mission of the said building was clarified. All the while, I was thinking that it must serve 'ten people', but its real meaning is its 'ten-fold purpose'. At that time in Ravulapalem, there was a deaf and dumb school, a mentally challenged school and a blind school being maintained separately. In the brother donated land there was a five portions tiled house. We gave three portions to the mentally challenged school and two portions to run the Saraswathi Sisu Mandir, whose syllabus is based on Indian Traditions and Culture. We maintained the running of the mentally challenged school and Saraswathi Sisu Mandir for nearly two years in this tiled house. We also used to render our services regularly to the deaf and dumb school. With these ongoing activities, Mr. Vardhana Rao stated, "We shall bring all these activities like Mentally challenged school, Deaf and Dumb school, Blind school, Saraswathi Sisu Mandir, a Computer Training center, a Ladies Tailoring center, a Spiritual Library, a free Function Hall to conduct small functions, etc under one roof and look after its sustenance and maintenance". I conveyed my acceptance to his proposal without a second thought. In this way, one year passed. It was December, 2009. Mr. Vardhana Rao got the news that Mr. Srinivasan, All India President of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisations will make a visit to the Agency areas in East Godavari on 9-4-2010. On the same day, we will commence the construction of the said building, in the presence of Mr. Srinivasan. There are no finances, but still I accepted his proposal immediately. We both of us sat and made a two floor building plan. In January, 2010 I took this plan to Puttaparthi to have the Divine Grace and Blessings from Bhagawan Baba. Sitting in His Divine presence, I closed my eyes and communicated Him from my heart, "We have prepared a plan for the said building. But it is not final. It must be Your Plan". In a moment as soon as I closed my eyes, Baba has shown me a building. I prepared another plan for this building, but there were some blanks. I stayed in Puttaparthi for 5 days. I exercised to complete this plan. Five days passed. Not much of a sleep for these five days. But still the blanks remained. It was a 5 day stay at Puttaparthi, as I got my up and down Railway reservation well in advance. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day evening, I sat again and prayed Baba "If there are any lapses, please forgive me and help me complete the plan". In a thrice, the blanks were completed. I returned to Ravulapalem and shown the plan to Mr. Vardhana Rao. It was not a 2 storey building, but instead a 3 storey building, with a 29\*36 Hall in the center of the building, with a roof over 40 feet above ground level. Mr.Vardhana Rao liked the plan. Who made the plan for us? It is the Divine Involvement which guided us with this plan. After the completion of this building, everybody liked it and a couple of them have even shed tears of joy in Ecstasy.

And let me now narrate about the construction work. We commenced the work on 9-4-2010, but Mr.Srinivasan has not come to East Godavari. The Bhoomi Pooja was performed in the presence of the elders of the Organisation. Before the construction work has begun, Mr.Vardhana Rao has suggested the name "Astadhala Seva Pushpam" to this building. 12,000 sq ft of construction over a

period of one year, in three floors was completed. By God's Grace the Blind can see, the deaf can hear and the Lame can walk. God has ordered me to start this building. I had no finances to attempt the construction work. In the month of March, 2010 I have cleared the loans of my three buildings. I don't know the reason for this strange coincidence of clearing all these loans in March, 2010. I again want to take loans by mortgaging my three buildings. Mr.Chalamayya, SBI Manager, Razole has sponsored an eye camp at Ravulapalem in April. Our local Sathya Sai devotees have done the necessary service for the conduct of the eye camp. During lunch time I requested Mr.Chalamayya to see the land for the Sai Mandir. I told him that I had 3 buildings, whose loans were repaid back regularly, and that I want to take another 3 loans for the said building, and asked for his suggestion. On the spot, Mr.Chalamayya promised to give two loans of five lakh rupees each on my wife's and on my building. For the third loan, I approached Mr.Anjaneya Reddy, SBI Manager, Ganti Pedapudi, who readily accepted my proposal for the third loan. Thus I received a loan of  $3 \times 5,00,000 = 15,00,000$  rupees. In the beginning I told Mr.Vardhana Rao that I shall bear the entire cost of the construction. But Mr.Vardhana Rao has told me that the land belongs to the Organisation, and that all the members of the Organisation will bear the construction cost. I accepted his loving proposal on two conditions. 1) I will not ask money from anybody for the purpose of construction. 2) I will look after the construction work by myself. Mr.Vardhana Rao accepted both my requests. Apart from the bank loans of 15 lakh rupees, devotees contributed on their own to a tune of another eighteen lakh rupees as the work progressed, in that one year. The cost of the building reached 40 lakhs. The construction work went on very smoothly and at no time, I faced any financial problems. Ch Chandra Reddy, a native of Ravulapalem, knowing about this project, has promised to assist us financially without interest. He kept up his promise and gave 5 lakh rupees. We repaid his amount back in 2-3 years time. But Mr.Chandra Reddy has never in this 2-3 years period has sent us a word for repayment. Without having any finances in our hand and without urging anybody for finances, is it possible to complete such a giant construction? Not possible. But once the construction started, there was no looking back. In this way, without having any finances in our hand, and without asking anybody for donations, the construction was completed. How this is made possible? The answer is Divine Involvement.

Chandra Reddy's gesture reminds us of an incident in Mother Theresa's life. Mother Theresa in the beginning started doing her services as a part of Church. But as her service activities increased, she was lovingly separated from Church to encourage her in her Mission. After separating from The Church, she started the Missionary of Charities at Calcutta. At that time, all the activities were performed in rental buildings. Mother Theresa felt the need for a own building. Around 1955, the present Missionary of Charities Building, the Nirmala House was put to sale by its previous owner, a generous Muslim. Mother wants to buy this building but she has no money in her hand. She put forward her plea to the Church. And the Church gracefully arranged the entire loan of One Lakh Fifty Thousand Rupees for the purchase of the said building without interest. Mother repaid back the said amount to the Church within one year. This is an act of Divine Involvement.

During the construction, two incidents have happened. They must be narrated here. All the Columns of our building have been raised to the ground floor slab level. The basement level is fixed at 2 feet above the Panchayat Road level. So we have to fill up this with sand and raise the building by 2 feet. Sand was unloaded at the site with trucks. During the unloading of the sand, one day a truck has hit one of the columns and the column started dancing. We have decided to construct this column again from above the plinth beam level. The demolition of this column was completed in quick time. The column was shattered as if it is made of mud. This means, the cement used for the columns was of very poor quality. We informed the company of the poor quality cement. The cement company has accepted their lapse and paid 2 lakh rupees as compensation for the loss incurred. We have

demolished all the columns and again raised them. This building was constructed for a noble cause and ideals. If that sand truck had not hit that column, we would have used the same cement for the ground floor slab too. Really a great calamity was avoided. This is a three storeyed building. Around 50 inmates will be residing in this building. At a later date, if the building collapses, it would have caused a lot of damage to the lives and property. At a later date, nobody will look at the cement lapse. Everybody will view it as a lapse on the part of the builders. So this cement lapse was not realized by any one of us, until that truck hit the column. We have used a vibrator while raising the columns. We have taken all measures to complete a standard construction. Because of the technical skills adopted, human eye failed to realize the cement lapse. It is only the Divine Involvement, which made us realized the cement lapse. How can we repay back our Gratitude to such a loving Lord?

During construction, another incident occurred. Centring work for the third floor was in progress, at a height of 35 feet above road level. One day evening, at 5.30pm, a wooden plank was broken and the centring mason has fell 35 feet down on the ground. Immediately, he lost consciousness. Me and Mr.Vardhana Rao were informed about this fall. I started chanting "Sai Gayatri" as soon as I heard this news. We feared the consequences. In ten minutes, Mr.Vardhana Rao reached the construction place. As Mr.Vardhana Rao was walking towards the mason, he got conscious and expressed, "I am OK". On seeing the mason getting up, Mr Vardhana Rao heaved a huge sigh of relief. This mason had a few minor injuries over his body. Two minutes later, I too reached the sight. Everybody around heaved a sigh of relief. It was a Saturday. Dr.Krishna Reddy, an Orthopedic Surgeon will be coming to Ravulapalem. He checked the mason, and to make sure of any future complaints, he got five X-Rays of this mason. All the X-Rays revealed no fractures. This Doctor has expressed that he has never witnessed such a miracle in his career. A fall from a height of 35 feet means instant death, or if survived his bones will be broken or dislocated. But nothing happened to this mason. It is God alone, who saved this mason from certain death. How can we express our Gratitude to such a Loving God? This is the Divine Involvement. "Construct this building with your experience", were the remarks in 2006. I got involved in the construction without any traces of my ego, and at the same time I am contemplating on His name, as always. These are my pre-requisites for my Divine Involvement. Not even for once, I ever felt that I am constructing this building. I always used to feel that God is constructing this building on His own and that I am just an instrument in His Hands.

On 27-4-2011 we have decided to inaugurate the "Opening Ceremony" of our Astadhala Seva Pushpam. But on 24-4-2011, Bhagawan Baba has left His Mortal coil. As a result, the opening ceremony was postponed to 28-5-2011. Our Organisations's State President, Mr Chalam, came to inaugurate this building. After Baba's Samadhi, this was the first Mandir inauguration. Mr.Chalam, in his opening address remarked, that our Astadhala Seva Pushpam will offer its services in a ten-fold way. In 2006, the Divine Command also has revealed the same thing. We have named the building as "Astadhala Seva Pushpam", meaning 8-fold service center. Because of the name, it may sound as if it is limited to eight types of service activities. But when our State President Mr.Chalam remarked as 10-fold activity, I have taken these words as Bhagawan Baba's words and enjoyed Bliss. After this inauguration, Mr.Chalam, who in his capacity as Organisation's State President, who travels all over the state, has mentioned about our Astadhala Seva Pushpam in all his places of visit. In the Sai Organisation I had friends all over the state. After the construction, whenever I met them they used to say that Mr.Chalam has explained about our Astadhala Seva Pushpam in their meetings, held at their places. Many times I conveyed my heartfelt thanks to Mr.Chalam, for his glorious words of appreciation regarding our Mandir. One may have plenty of money, but still a beautiful building may not be materialized. Even if materialized, what about the glory? Our Mandir's glory was conveyed to

most parts of the state. Our Astadhala Seva Pushpam's activities were listed on the first web page of our State's Service Activities. The glory of our Astadhala Seva Pushpam can be attributed to Divine Involvement. What else can I say?

All those who perform their acts with unity of our thoughts, words and deeds, can experience the Divine Involvement. Hence everyone must achieve this unity of thought, word and deed and experience for themselves the Divine Involvement. I have experienced many such experiences. In this context, can I miss His Kinship? No. With such experiences my Kinship with Him has strengthened over the years.

**All are embodiments of the Divine Soul:** Once in Global Radio Sai, a Sai student narrated his experience thus. This knowledge reveals how Divine involves with each one of us. On one occasion Baba gave an interview to 20 students, consecutively for 3 days and this student was one among the 20 students.

ON THE FIRST DAY:

Baba: How many of you are here?

Students: We are 20 students, Swami.

Baba: Can you remain without Me?

Students: We cannot remain without you Swami. Along with you, we are 21 Swami.

ON THE SECOND DAY:

Baba: How many of you are here?

Students: 'We are 21, Swami', the students replied based on the first day interview.

Baba: I am present in each one of you, is it not?

Students: Yes, Swami.

Baba: If so, what will be your strength?

Students: '20+20=40, Swami'.

ON THE THIRD DAY:

Baba: How many of you are here?

Students: They don't know what to reply. When they replied '21', Baba responded 'No'. And when the students replied '40', Baba again responded 'No'.

Baba: You are all the embodiments of one Divine Soul. So we all are ONE.

The student was in fact delighted to give this narration. Generally the complex Divine Philosophy is not easily grasped or explained. Such a complex phenomenon was explained by Baba with so much ease.

Based on the above narration, I want to state here my personal status. All those Experiences which involve Divine Involvement, I enjoy them as my own. I need not be a part of those experiences. Whenever I come across such experiences of Divine Involvement, my heart overflows with Bliss.

With the Divine Involvement all our tasks will be completed in all respects and end on a fruitful note. The hazards involved in our acts will be taken care of and the lapses involved in our acts will be overcome. This incident narrates how Pandavaas escaped a life and death situation with the Divine Involvement.

The great Mahabharat War was going on. All the five Pandavaas were still alive. Duryodhana could not bear this. He questioned Bhishma's bravery and integrity towards Kauravaas. Bhishma gave a vow to Duryodhana that he will kill all the Pandavaas. Bhishma's vow reached the Pandavaas and the Draupadhi. They were worried. Draupadhi was most worried. She prayed for Lord Krishna's help. Krishna came to the Pandavaas. Draupadhi informed Krishna about Bhishma's pledge to kill Pandavaas. Bhishma is well known for his Truthfulness and valour. So when Krishna heard the latest oath of Bhishma, Krishna coolly stated that his words will be fulfilled. After hearing Krishna's remarks Draupadhi was even more worried. She ardently prayed Krishna to save the Pandavaas. Late that night, Krishna took Draupadhi to Bhishma's tent, in the enemy camp. In those days, the queens used to wear footwear that made enough noise to alert the premises. As the Bhishma's tent approached, Krishna asked Draupadhi to remove her footwear. Krishna carried her footwear in his lap, covered with a cloth. Draupadhi in that night time entered Bhishma's tent and fell at his feet. Bhishma after making a vow to Duryodhana was restlessly moving in his tent. He was restless with no food and sleep. He was wandering in his tent contemplating on the ways to demolish the Pandavaas. At that night time Draupadhi fell at his feet. Not realizing who she was in that pitch of darkness, he blessed her by saying "Dheerga Sumangali Bhava", meaning 'long live with your husband'. After making this blessing, Bhishma realized that the lady is none other than Draupadhi. Bhishma was surprised and asked Draupadhi, the reason for her visit to his place at that odd hour and felt relieved over her reply. Next Krishna entered into Bhishma's tent. He saw something in Krishna's hands. He thought them to be some eatables, and started feeling hungry. Krishna unfolded the parcel and placed the footwear of Draupadhi at her feet. Bhishma knows that Krishna is God Almighty, but at that moment He carried the footwear of Draupadhi. Bhishma was moved by Lord's efforts to uphold Righteousness in the Society. Bhishma was an illumined soul. Long before the birth of Pandavaas and the Kauravaas, Bhishma has made a vow that he will safeguard the Kingdom as long as he is alive. As a result, even though Bhishma followed righteousness throughout his life, he fought against the Pandavaas in the war. On this particular day, Bhishma has made two vows. The first vow he made to Duryodhana was to kill all the pandavaas. And on the same night, he blessed Draupadhi as "Dheerga Sumangali Bhava". So the first oath is updated with the second oath. Why Lord Krishna must be remembered? Krishna said that Bhishma's words will be fulfilled. See how loving are God's deeds? Bhishma is a very noble soul and Krishna is the Supreme Lord Himself. Bhishma is fighting on the enemy front. But still Krishna gave a lot of importance to Bhishma's words. He never devalued Bhishma's words, even though He is the Supreme Lord Himself. When Draupadhi and Lord Krishna came to Bhishma's tent at that odd hour, Bhishma immediately realized the reason for their visit. Bhishma also realized how God rescues His devotees.

Bhishma is not an ordinary warrior. He controlled his senses. He is the student of great Parasurama. Bhishma always followed Truth. He is a spiritual giant. He gave "Vishnu Sahasranaama", to the world, glorifying Lord Vishnu with 1008 names. In the Mahabharat War, Krishna has made a vow that He will not handle any deadly weapon in the war. Upon learning about this Krishna's oath, Bhishma, who is in the Duryodhana's court, has stated that he will see that

Krishna will break this vow. During the Mahabharat War Bhishma was fighting so ferociously, that Lord Krishna was upset and decided to kill Bhishma. At that moment, Arjuna pleaded Krishna not to break His oath. Krishna has no differentiation between a friend and an enemy. Bhishma always followed Righteousness. Even though Bhishma has fought on the enemy side, because of his spirituality his greatness was made well known to the posterity.

**Never treat Service as Hardwork:** Once Bhagawan Baba gave an interview to Hyderabad youth. One of the youth remarked, “Baba, You are involved in various service activities. You are very busy. You are working very hard, day and night. Please bless us to work hard like you”. Baba replied, “Never do service in a hard way”. Instead of the term ‘hard work’, we have three terms namely the power of desire, power of knowledge and the power of action. All the three powers are within us. When that is the case, then the term hard work has no place in our dictionary. Human birth is very precious. Knowing this truth if man makes an effort for his self realisation, he will be supported by his power of knowledge and by his power of action.

**Implementing Deeds with attention will enhance one’s Knowledge:** Our power of desire is linked to our power of knowledge and the power of implementation. When we show interest towards petty worldly things even these powers will be executed on a low key. When we realize the importance of human birth, the energies of these three powers will be raised from a finite level to an infinite level. There is Divinity in all of us. Very close to the above message of Krishna, we have the Divine Message of Sri Shirdi Sai as ‘Sraddha and Saburi’, meaning implementing good deeds with patience. As we attempt mundane things, we feel weak and thereby lose our energies. We know that Eagle has two strong wings and it can fly any long distances and at high altitudes into the sky. But when it has no desire to fly, it will not move an inch forward. But we know that an ant is very small, but when it starts walking, it can walk miles and miles.

**Divinity in Man is Realised only by Love:** In our daily life we face situations like Direct-Indirect, Inner Power-Outer Power, and Inner Element-External Element. In this way many things are manifested before us. Example: We know there is fire in the firewood. But the fire is unseen as such. Can we cook directly on such a fire wood? Only when the fire is ignited in firewood, we can cook our food. In the same way, Divinity is present in every man in a latent state (Inner Element). Such Inner Divinity can be sparked only by Love. How do we light a match stick? Due to friction, a match stick is fired.

Here we must carefully understand the Divine Philosophy of Love. Man shows his interest towards this world and also towards God. The interest shown to this world is called Attachment, whereas the interest shown towards God is called Love. But we are misusing the term Love in our daily routine. Love results Love. There is no substitute to Love.

**In God’s Love we will never feel the pain:** When we are in a Divine medium enjoying the Divine Love, we forget the surroundings and along with it our physical body and its pain. Example: Suguna is a Cowherd woman, who has come to live in Gokulam after Krishna has left for Madhura. In olden days the village head will hold a lamp in his house, all the 24 hours of the day, and from this lamp all the villagers will carry the light every day to their homes to light their homes. Suguna used to Love Krishna a lot. Suguna went to Nanda’s house (Krishna’s father) to get the lamp lighted. In that light Suguna saw Krishna and forget herself in Ecstasy. Her fingers were burning, but she expressed no pain. Sensing the burning smell, the neighbors ran towards Suguna and realized that she is burning her fingers. Suguna was back to her senses. They asked her how she could feel no pain, inspite of her burns. Suguna replied that all the while she was just seeing Krishna in that lamp.

If this is the situation of the devotees, then let us see, how the Divine Lord reciprocates in return. In Ramayana, we have the pious old lady Sabari, an uneducated but still a purified soul. Once, Lord Rama visited Sabari's place. Sabari tasted the fruits first and offered them to Rama. Rama showed no hesitation to accept the already tasted fruits. We have another incident of such Divine Love. Before the Mahabharat War, Lord Krishna acted as an Ambassador between the Pandavaas and the Kauravaas to prevent the war. During this visit Lord Krishna stayed with Vidura, an illumined soul. By paying host to Lord Krishna, Vidura was lost in Lord's Ecstasy. He offered Banana skin to Lord Krishna instead of the Banana pulp. Lord Krishna ate the banana skin without any complaint in a loving manner. After some time, Vidura came back to his senses. He noticed banana pulp instead of banana skin before him. He realized his folly and felt sorry for what had happened. When he brought this to Lord Krishna's notice, Lord Krishna expressed surprise and ignorance saying, "All the while I thought I have eaten the banana pulp".

This type of relation is maintained between God and His devotees. When the devotees maintain Kinship with our Lord, then they will be blessed with many such memorable experiences. When we maintain kinship with our Lord, every such experience will become our own experience, even though we are not involved in it.

**Man must change his Theosophy:** Can water mix with oil? No. The attachment of man towards worldly things is characterized by ego, selfishness and bondage. But the Divine Love is selfless, permanent, without any traces of bad elements and shines all the while. Observing these facts, what we can infer? Man must change his Theosophy. Man must reduce his ego, selfishness and bondage towards the worldly things. Only then can man grace the Divine Love.

Man's life is like firewood. This firewood must be ignited at a young age with the Divine Love. When this firewood is ignited, it will continue burning till the end of its life span and in the process showing its light on all others. But what will happen if the firewood is left in the open? When exposed to air, dust, sun and water, this firewood will lose its power to ignite. So man must soon realize his Divine Philosophy and ignite himself with Divine Love as early as possible.

We are normal human beings. We may say that it is not possible for us to love like God. Bhagawan Baba had a suggestion to the humanity in this regard. Every time God descends on Earth in human form, he leads an ideal life and sets Himself as an example for others to follow. How? God in human form will lead a life free from ego, attachment and jealousy. In the same way every man must gradually reduce these qualities from him in order to develop love towards his fellow beings.

**"Aum Sri Sai Raamaaya Namaha":** When I was just 5 or 6, my mother has enabled me to chant "Raama" naamam. She told that Gandhi by practicing the Raama naamam has achieved many good things, Independence for India and acknowledged as "Mahaatma" by the entire world. Right from my younger days - from then till now - I still had the habit to receive all that is good and put it into practice. In this way chanting 'Raama' has become a part of my life since my childhood. I continued chanting 'Raama' for 20 years. Later I voluntarily shifted from 'Raama' to 'Sai Raama' chanting which I continued for another 25 years. But once Baba in His discourse advised that it is of no use chanting Lord's name without applying one's mind. I started contemplating on Baba's advice regard chanting. I am continuing chanting, but am I applying my mind always? I doubted my effort. What should I do? As an answer, I shifted to chanting the 'Sai Gayatri' maha mantram. Without applying the mind, this mantram will not be complete. It will be stopped in the middle. So applying the mind, I shifted to 'Sai Gayatri' chanting and got habituated to it for another 5 years. After shifting to Sai Gayatri, I felt even more relaxed and lot better. For my chanting habit, our Supreme Lord might have

felt very happy and decided to give a small mantram for my convenience. One day I had this dialogue between me and my Indweller. (I am recollecting Mr.Vardhana Rao's efforts over the years in conducting various spiritual quiz programs with a lot of interest to students and elders – in this context).

My Indweller: What is the five lettered mantram( Panchaakshari Mantram)?

Me: 'Aum Namah Sivaaya'.

My Indweller: What is the eight lettered mantram( Astaakshari Mantram)?

Me: 'Aum Namo Naaraayanaaya'.

My Indweller: What is the twelve lettered mantram(Dhwaadhasaakshari Mantram)?

Me: 'Aum Namo Bhagawathe vaasudeevaaya'.

My Indweller: Right now, it is passing the Supreme Lord's Advent of the three Sai Avataars. At this juncture, for the humanity to advance spiritually, what can be the feasible mantram?

In a thrice, I contemplated on this issue. The humanity is aware of the 5-lettered, 8-lettered and the 12-lettered mantrams since time immemorial. So it is time for a 9-lettered Mantram, to Bless the humanity – I thought. I prayed sincerely to bless that 9-lettered mantram.

My Indweller: 'Aum Sri Sai Raamaaya Namaha'.

I felt extreme bliss for this mantram. It is a 9-lettered mantram. Bhagawan Baba revealed that the theosophy of word 'Sai' means father and mother. Raamayana reveals that the word 'Raama' has 3 basic syllables in it. They are 'Ra', 'Ae' and 'Ma'. 'Ra' belongs to Sun God which drives away the ignorance from us. 'Ae' belongs to Moon God which subside the desires in us. 'Ma' belongs to Fire God which destroys the Sins in us. In this way, by chanting 'Raama' mantram constantly, Vaalmiiki from a ignorant hunter transformed into an enlightened Sage.

We all are familiar with the chanting of "Sai Ram" in the Organizational activities. But to give it the status of a Mantra, the Lord has made me write this important issue. Once in a discourse Bhagawan Baba funnily explained how the devotees chant this "Sai Ram" in different modes – without love. We must chant Lord's name with a lot of love. Without love there is no use in chanting lord's name. As the lord's name gets the status of a Mantra, it will be chanted with love and divine fervor. Then "Sai Ram" will become "Aum Sri Sai Ramaaya Namaha". This is a 9 lettered Mantram.

Before Sai, the most popular incarnations of the lord are Sri Rama and Sri Krishna. Most of the Indians adore both Rama and Krishna with great fervor. In this context, the devotees of Lord Krishna can chant the Mantram as "Aum Sri Sai Krishnaaya Namaha". Bhagawan Baba has stated that Lord Krishna's incarnation is more auspicious, attractive and blissful and the humanity follows Lord Krishna's advice. In this context Baba explained the theosophy of Lord Krishna as follows. Krishna cultivates our spiritual heart with good qualities and hence He is referred to as "Krishi Teethi Krishnaha". As Krishna blesses us with bliss, He is referred to as "Kushi Teethi Krishnaha". As Krishna attracts everyone with His words, games and deeds, He is referred to as "Karsha Teethi Krishnaha".

There are many among us who have immense love for both Rama and Krishna. Such men can chant the Mantram as "Aum Sri Sai Ramakrishnaaya Namaha" – a 11 lettered Mantram.

All the while we have thought of Lord Rama and Krishna in this 11 lettered Mantram, “Aum Sri Sai Ramakrishnaaya Namaha”, but we can contemplate on Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa too while chanting this Mantram. The followers of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa will adore Him as God. But those who have no knowledge may skip Him from their thoughts. Arvind Ghosh has stated that Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa is the greatest Soul in the last 5000 years after Lord Krishna. Apart from that we must know just one incident regarding his birth to consider Him as an incarnation. The advents of all Incarnations have followed a special procedure. All Incarnations have their ‘ENTRY’ into their mother’s womb directly (without the role of the father). Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa’s father Khudhi Ram, at the age of 60, has undertaken a North Indian pilgrimage trip. When he was at Gaya, serving the Lord Gadhadhara, he experienced that Lord Gadhadhara has blessed him stating that He will be born as his child. It took a few months time for him to complete his pilgrimage trip. As he returned back home, he learned that his wife Chandramathi was pregnant. The couple was ecstatic with bliss. In this context, the newly born baby was christened as ‘Gadhadhara’, who with time has become popular as ‘Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa’.

In this way after realizing the above three mantrams I felt very happy. I have never left the chanting of ‘Raama’, ‘Sai Raama’ or the ‘Sai Gayatri’ mantrams. But now I have habituated to the chanting of ‘Aum Sri Sai Raamaaya Namaha’, ‘Aum Sri Sai Krishnaaya Namaha’ and ‘Aum Sri Sai Ramakrishnaaya Namaha’ mantrams. I am feeling a lot better now. I could contemplate more easily while chanting this mantram.

In this context I want to express some information. Sri Shirdi Sai never in the past has delivered any Mantram to His devotees, inspite of their pleas. Similarly Sathya Sai Baba too has never responded His devotees with any Mantram. Kannamma, who wrote “Sri Sathya Sai Anandadaayi”, stated that she had made many pleas to Baba to respond with a mantram. For this effort, Baba on one occasion responded Kannamma by saying, “The Infinite Lord will not deliver a finite Mantram to the Humanity”.

Many times I asked myself, ‘Why the Supreme Lord is not responding His devotees with a Mantram?’ At last I had an answer, which satisfied me. Lord’s name is not different from a Mantram. But the devotees differ in their opinion. This is not correct. Since ages we have ‘Raama’ and other mantrams for us to chant. Under the context, the devotees can opt for any of the available mantrams for chanting. There is no need for a new mantram.

“Lord’s Name is more auspicious than Lord’s Form” explained Sathya Sai through Ramakatha Rasavahini. God’s Name is infinite and not finite. But man with his ignorance is limiting the God’s Name. Actually man is supposed to shatter (break) all bondages (limitations) with the help of God’s Name.

We shall recollect once more the essence of ‘Poorva Meemamsa’ here. Poorva Meemamsa advised man to attend his daily core of activities applying his thought, word and in deed. The process is explained in three steps namely Karma Yogam, Dharma Yogam and Brahma Yogam. Karma Yogam involves the body actions. Dharma Yogam involves the application of the body and the mind. But Brahma Yogam involves the application of the body, the mind and the word. Through our words we must chant Lord’s Name always in all our activities. Only then any activity will become a complete affair. So in this way we must get habituated to doing all our daily core of activities by chanting Lord’s Name. In doing so, we will be involving Our Lord in all our activities. But what we are doing? Instead of Brahma Yogam we are getting habituated to Dharma Yogam. This is our lapse. But how many are realizing this lapse? Secondly all those who aim to progress spiritually practice

chanting Lord's Name under serene conditions, are again delimiting Lord's Name from their daily core of activities. Under both circumstances, chanting of Lord's Name is segregated from daily core of activities. This is not proper. We must involve God in all our daily acts by chanting his name.

## 12. PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY

Everybody knows that there is fire in the firewood, Fragrance in the flower, Salt in the seawater and Cream in Milk. From our childhood we are aware of these unseen things, because we are well accustomed to these things. But there are many things in our nature. Are we able to see the unseen Divinity present in all things? Practical Spirituality enables us to see the unseen Divinity in all things. Spirituality says that all are the embodiments of the Divine Soul.

In today's world, Practical Spirituality was demonstrated to the humanity through the lives of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Shirdi Sai, Parthi Sai, etc. Even Lord Shiva has given a demo of this Truth. This Practical Spirituality will touch our heart, will melt our heart, will broaden our heart and relishes our heart. With these experiences we will become one with God. Now I shall narrate a few such incidents of Practical Spirituality.

Sri Adi Sankara is considered as one of the greatest souls ever born on this earth. With his knowledge, he never in his life has lost an argument. Once when Adi Sankara was in Benaras, a chandala (an untouchable) came in his opposite way. Adi Sankara asked this chandala to move away from his path. To this, chandala remarked, "To whom you are asking to move away. Do you mean this body (chandala) to move away or the Indweller (who is common to all) to move away"? Adi Sankara immediately realized his lapse and fell at the feet of chandala. Chandala disappeared. Adi Sankara realized that Lord Siva has personally appeared before him to drive out his ignorance.

In India there was a tradition. All those who make a visit to Lord Visweswara, at Benaras will also make a visit to Lord Siva at Rameswaram in South India. While leaving Benaras, the pilgrims carry the pious water from the sacred Ganges and conduct a holy bath to Lord Siva at Rameswaram. In olden days these pilgrimage trips were made on feet. Once, Gnaanadev on his way to Rameswaram from Benaras saw a donkey in dying conditions. Gnaanadev quenched the thirst of the donkey, with the sacred Ganges water he was carrying. All those pilgrims who were travelling with Gnaanadev have faulted Gnaanadev for this act. After reaching Rameswaram, they all had conducted a sacred bath to Lord Siva with the Ganges water. Lord Siva appeared before them and told them that Gnaanadev's bath has intensely pleased Him. Infact Gnaanadev has not performed any bath to Lord Siva, as he had quenched the thirst of the donkey with his sacred Ganges water. This incident narrates us that God is present in all living beings.

Once a mother took his son to Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and told him that his son is eating lot of sweets and hence requested Paramahansa to advise his son from taking sweets. Paramahansa told her to come after one month. This mother along with her son came to Paramahansa again after one month. "Eating more sweets will spoil your health. So don't eat too much of sweets", Paramahansa advised that boy. The boy's mother was surprised at this advice. She asked Paramahansa that he can as well give this advice to his son, even one month back. Paramahansa replied the boy's mother that one month back, even he was eating lot of sweets. And without himself practicing, how can he advise others. So in this last one month Paramahansa has stopped taking sweets and became eligible to make this little piece of advice to that boy. Practice and precept carry more value. Precept without practice is of no value.

A hungry man must be served with food and not with spiritual knowledge, says Swami Vivekananda. He who is suffering with hunger must be served first with food and only later he can grasp the spiritual knowledge. On one occasion a youth met Vivekananda and asked him to show him God. Vivekananda advised this boy to play football to realize God. Everybody around were surprised at Vivekananda's remarks. Vivekananda clarified the incident thus. "This youth is physically very weak. Such a weak person must first improve his health. In order to improve his health I advised him to play football. After improving his health, he will make amends for God realization". The unseen is seen by the great spiritual masters. They thus guide mankind to perfection.

Once Shirdi Sai made a promise to His devotee that He will visit his home for lunch. The devotee has made all the preparations and was waiting for Shirdi Sai. As they were waiting for Shirdi Sai, a dog went inside the house. The devotee drove away the dog, with a stick. On that day Shirdi Sai has not turned up for lunch. Next day, this devotee went to Shirdi Sai and in a polite way asked Him for failing up to His promise. To this, Shirdi Sai replied "I came to your house as promised, but you gave me a thorough beating and drove me away". Saying so, He showed the stick marks on His back. His devotee was shocked to hear this from Shirdi Sai. He claimed pardon for his lapse. This incident shows that God is in all creatures and expresses Himself in all forms.

In our daily life we are following many unethical practices. The reason for this lapse is our physical vision. We are habituated to our physical vision instead of our inner vision. But Bhagawan Baba has corrected us from these unethical practices by guiding us on a number of occasions. Many years back, a very old devotee of Baba has passed away at Puttaparthi. Mr Kasturi went to Baba and asked Baba if he can convey condolences to the departed soul. "Condolences to the Soul!", Baba questioned emphatically and added, "Bliss is the true Nature of the Soul. To such a Blissful Soul, you want to offer Peace through condolences"? With this reprimand, Kasturi realized his lapse and later narrated this event to the world to correct all such unethical practices.

Once a youth approached Adi Sankara and stated, "God is nowhere to be seen. So God is not there". To these remarks Sankara replied, "Whose God? Your God or my God?" Perplexed by these unexpected remarks the youth replied, "Why are you saying Your God or My God. After all God is one for everyone". The greatness of Sankara lies here. A youth approached Sankara by saying that there is no God as He is unseen. And from the same youth, in a few moments he made the youth accept, "that there is only one God for everyone". Today with our external physical approach, we are not realizing the truth. We are getting habituated to unethical practices. This is because of our ignorance. This Practical Spirituality will infuse Divine knowledge into us and drive out our ignorance.

From the above spiritual experiences we learn that Adi Sankara could see the Indweller in all of us, Gnaanadev could see our Supreme Lord even in a Donkey, Sri Ramakrishna could precept only after practice, Swami Vivekananda could initially drive the weaknesses of a person before promoting him to higher altitudes, Shirdi Sai has proved that He is present in all living beings, Bhagawan Sathya Sai has always addressed the humanity as the embodiments of the Divine Soul, and Adi Sankara could prove to the world that God exists even though He is unseen.

We must show interest in the Practical Spirituality. We must put it into practice and experience it. Today all those who surrendered to God will experience God with so many personal experiences. One such personal experience will change the entire life. Try for one such experience in your life time. What we require is faith in God, Purity, Perseverance, Patience and Attention in the effort. If we start with these pre requisites we will add many good things into our lives. At that point

we can see the Indweller in everybody. Like a Gnaanadev we can see Lord Siva in a donkey, like Ramakrishna Paramahansa we will precept only after practice, like Swami Vivekananda we will drive out our own weaknesses. God descends on the earth to guide the entire humanity. When such God Incarnates like Shirdi Sai and Parthi Sai are in our midst, we will make efforts to reach and accept them. In their presence, with their message we will transform from a finite state to an infinite state. Blessed are those who follow the Divine message.

**Practical Spirituality involves Reading Religious Texts:** The theory class is followed by a practical class. Bhagawan Baba on Lord Krishna`s birthday used to deliver Lord Krishna`s miracles and messages. They are related to Practical Spirituality.

Human birth is very precious. Men are embodiments of Divine Love. If man concentrates his attention on the worldly matters it is called attachment. On the other hand if man concentrates his attention on God, it is called love. Lord Krishna gave an easy technique to shift our mind from the mundane world towards God. He advised that man must focus his mind on three activities. The first activity is family sustenance and maintenance. The second activity is reading religious texts. The third activity is to contemplate on God. In this way Lord Krishna advised man to focus his mind on these three activities. Those who lead their lives thus will progress Spiritually in four states, says Lord Krishna.

	Family Sustenance and Maintenance	Reading Religious Texts	Contemplating on God
First Stage	½	¼	¼
Second Stage	¼	½	¼
Third Stage	0	½	½
Fourth Stage	0	0	1

God puts forth many improvements to mankind for easy implementation of spirituality. Those who practice this message will be really happy. Man who is in his finite state can slowly progress into an infinite state. He who is firmly attached to the world must gradually get detached from it and move towards the Almighty God. Man who starts with his external outer vision must gradually shift to inner vision. In this way, this message depicts man`s progress in four states. The resources of man are his body, his mind, his intelligences and his spiritual heart. In the first stage, man gives top priority to his body and the mind but at the same time utilizes his intelligences and spiritual heart to good use. Coming to the second stage, man will slowly reduce the importance of his body and the mind, but at the same time will improve upon his intelligences and the spiritual heart. And after coming to the third stage, the role of the body and the mind can be negated and man can sustain and maintain with his intelligences and the spiritual heart. And lastly coming to the fourth stage the role of the body, mind and the intelligences are negated and the seeker thrives only on the spiritual heart.

What a wonderful message. This message clearly guides man from his finite state to an infinite state – in these four stages. In this way man`s progress is possible. It is not an impossible task. In this context, we shall recollect the Divine message related to our body, mind, intelligences and our spiritual heart. As long as there is body feeling one will feel “I am working with my body”,

but after sacrificing this ego, he will shift to say “God is working through this body”. With this shift our body is gradually reduced to zero. And coming to the mind, it must follow Lord Krishna’s advise of Bhagawad Gita. Man must attend to all his duties without thinking of the fruits for his actions. If man gets habituated to doing things in a detached and selfless way, then we can admit that the mind has reached the state. of zero. In order for the mind to reach this state of purity, the six impurities of the mind like Anger, Desire, Miserliness, Attraction towards worldly things, Pride and Jealousy must be driven out. And in their place, we must add qualities like Inner Vision, Sense Control, Getting attention towards God, Going beyond the Dualities, Showing attention towards Good Things in Life and lastly Responding to our Indweller. In addition to these, the three characteristics of our mind namely its Speed, its Inconsistency and its ever Fleeting Attitude must be controlled to really enjoy the fourth characteristic, the Power of Mind. Such a mind will be in the perfect state and helps man to progress from a finite state to an infinite state. And now let us come to our Intelligences. Man’s Philosophy revolves in a limited plane. In a limited plane, we can see the beginning and the ending, we can see the high and the low, can feel the good and the bad. But God’s philosophy is infinite. In this infinite state the beginning and the ending are not found, the high and the low cannot be realized, and even the good and the bad cannot be grasped. Such an infinite philosophy of God is beyond the reach of Human Intelligences. So at this point of time man offers surrender to God and feel, “This is god’s decision. God knows better what is good for me. Before Him, I am a nobody”. At this point, even the role of the Intelligences are reduced to zero. And let’s come to the fourth entity, the Spiritual Heart. Our Spiritual Heart can contain this entire Universe, says Baba. Many times Baba stressed us to work with our Spiritual Heart only. In this way a man’s life which started with the four entities the body, the mind, the intelligences and the spiritual heart, must be gradually preoccupied with only the Spiritual Heart in the fourth stage.

**My Progress from first state to fourth state through Practice:** I have started my march from the first stage and reached the fourth stage. Right from my childhood, I have done all my acts using my body, my mind, my intelligences and my spiritual heart. As the life progressed with time, I have learned a lot of lessons. This body is like a water bubble. It can drop dead any moment. During my 23<sup>rd</sup> year, when I was all alone in New Delhi, after intaking Gulab Jamoon and Lassi, I suffered food poisoning - Ten very big vomitings and ten big motions. Each Vomiting was followed by a motion. Nobody was by my side. I became very weak. So weak, that I felt that it was my last day on earth. Even at that moment, instead of panicking I just surrendered to God for my survival. God did His bit and I survived this grave situation. A few years later, during my 26<sup>th</sup> year, when I was looking after the construction work of our Rice Mill at Penugonda, I came in contact with an electric pole from my back and suffered a severe electric shock. During this electric shock, the pain my body suffered cannot be expressed. Until now I have never suffered such severe body pain ever. During that electric shock I shouted wildly, without any words. During that shock, I felt as if my final moments have come. Even with that severe body pain, my mind was working nicely. It immediately prayed God, “Oh Swami, I want to do some service to the Society with my body. Can’t You please grant me this wish?”. While writing this thing I recollected Draupadi’s heartfelt prayer to Lord Krishna to save her chastity in the presence of an assembled court. With my prayer, I got relieved from my electric shock. As if someone has pushed me from the back I fell forward. Thus with God’s help, I escaped a certain death a second time. I realized the limitations of this human body. Man must not really rely on his body. However strong a man may be, he may drop dead any moment. So ever since then, I have decided not to worry about my body. From then onwards I am leading a life, limiting my body as a tool in God’s hands.

Let us come to my Mind. May be because of my past Good deeds, my mind was very pure. The six impurities of my mind never worried me. In addition to this purity I practiced all the six good qualities to maintain the purity of my mind. Like Mahatma Gandhi, I too developed the habit of chanting Lord Rama's name ever since my childhood. With this chanting, I controlled the mind's characteristics like the speed, instability and the fleeting qualities. The fourth quality, the mind power is in my experience. As long as I am awake, my mind will contemplate on God. To be in tune with the Lord during the wakeful state is called Samadhi. This Samadhi state is experienced since my 28<sup>th</sup> year.

**A few things about my Intelligences:** In 1982, I completed my M Sc. The palmist, Mr. Gopala Krishna after observing my palm has revealed that my life has lost its track. It will be a 12 year period. During this time I relied heavily on my intelligences. As a God realized soul I practiced the five human values of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-Violence. Lord Rama has spent 14 years of exile. The great Paandavas has spent 12 years of exile followed by one year life in disguise. These sufferings are common to every man. But all virtuous men with their intelligences and human values will make good use of this so called bad period into training session for future progress and spirituality.

And coming to my Spiritual Heart, Bhagawan Baba has stated that all those who practice human values will be blessed with 18 Divine Qualities. Prior to this I had no idea about the 18 Divine Qualities. But after realizing that I possessed these 18 Divine Qualities in me, I enjoyed Bliss for many days.

By always following Truth, I enjoyed the four qualities Courage, Fearlessness, Politeness and Detachment. In my heart I always maintained Courage and Fearlessness. As I see God in all I am always Polite towards everybody around me. I have come empty handed, and I will leave this world empty handed. With this detachment I opt for God's proximity.

By always following Righteousness I enjoyed the five Divine Qualities like Duty, Sense Control, Discipline, Patience and Perseverance. I strictly follow punctuality. I do all my acts in communion with my Indweller. I implement Sense Control quite easily. I maintain the Discipline to the core. Right from my childhood I enjoyed lot of Patience. The saying goes that as long as we have patience, we will never face defeat. Due to lack of Patience, I have never given up anything. I follow ACT NOW policy. I never postponed or escaped doing things by idling. I always enjoy simple living. I pray God to utilize this body as his instrument.

By practicing the human value Peace, I enjoyed Satisfaction, Cheerfulness and Equanimity. Right from my younger days I was always satisfied with what I possessed. By His Grace, I never faced "Shortage" of any resources ever. I was always Cheerful. I experienced very little or no sadness at all. I maintained Equanimity towards dualities of Life. My wife loves me a lot, but she never has the habit of praising me. With her fears, she sometimes find faults in me. But she praises me on one count. And that is my Equanimity. My wife praises me thus, "Aware of the fact that the mountain rock will fall on you and crush you any moment, you still maintain Calm without any Anxiety. You are indeed lucky to possess such calmness".

For practicing the fourth human value Love I enjoyed Kindness, Forgiveness, Service and Sacrifice. Our elders say that a kind man's heart is God's Mansion. I used to enjoy kindness in my heart right from my younger days. While forgiving others, I never delayed even for a second. After all, who am I to forgive others? It is God and Time which decide the Good and Bad of the Deeds, says

Baba. So I never find faults with others. I don't know how to find faults in others. Right from my childhood, I used to serve everybody around selflessly in a variety of ways, quite voluntarily. Because of my service attitude everybody around me showered a lot of affection. I enjoyed my Sacrifice attitude right from my childhood. "Where there is Sacrifice, there will be Glory", says Baba. The first message of God to Humanity is "Sacrifice". We inhale Oxygen (good air) and exhale Carbondioxide (bad air). We intake food and eliminate the excreta. So even our body, follow the rules of Sacrifice. If our body fails this rule, then it will fell sick and perish. I shall narrate here a simple truth regarding Sacrifice as told by Baba. What we earn through right means is called "Prakruthi" meaning "Natural Process", but if the same is earned through unrighteous means it is called "Vikruthi" i.e., "Unnatural". But that which is earned through righteous means, is spent for the benefit of others then it is called "Sanskruithi"-- a tradition for others to follow. We have another example. Iron ore is available in its natural state. This iron ore is refined and processed to create an article whose value will be enhanced. But if the iron ore is left as such in the open, then it will lose its potential and reach an unnatural state. Our life is like an ironore. How we shift is in our hands.

The fifth human value Non-Violence has promoted in me Compassion and Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God. I studied in All Saints, Hyderabad. Boys of all castes and religions have studied here. My school life passed away without the feeling of caste, creed, race and religion. In our school life we never felt any differences among us. I am running 56 now. For the last ten years, our school classmates are meeting once or twice every year. They all express one thing. "Our All Saints High School has enabled us to follow Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God". Kindness has two faces. They are the `giver` and the `recipient`. But in the act of Compassion there will be one face. The `giver is God` and the `recipient is God`. I am enjoying the Compassionate state too. In this way, I relish all the 18 Divine Qualities all the time. There can be no substitute to these 18 Divine Qualities.

**Reading Religious Texts is Very Important:** A few more tips in Practical Spirituality. Among us almost all of us are sharing their mind on only two purposes namely Family Sustenance-Maintenance and on Contemplation of God. As long as man spends his energies on his family sustenance and maintenance, he will be in a finite state handling only limited knowledge. But God's field is infinite. Man with his finite knowledge, cannot grasp the infinite Divine Knowledge. Every man must realize this truth. We all must recollect what Lord Krishna has taught to the mankind. He told us that we must share three activities with our mind. They are 1. Family Sustenance and Maintenance, 2. Reading Religious Texts and 3. Contemplate on God. Reading Religious texts has occupied the middle slot. This means it acts as a link between Finite and Infinite states. Man in his limited state will have many doubts about the unseen God. By reading these Religious Texts, all the doubts can be clarified and the practice becomes easy. This will facilitate smooth progress for man from 1<sup>st</sup> state to 4<sup>th</sup> state. Hence everyone must develop interest in reading Religious Texts as a part of spirituality.

**Religious Texts Bridge the gap between Finite and Infinite:** Until I completed my M Sc I have not read any religious texts. My first religious text was the history of `Sri Pothuluri Veera Brahmam`. At that time I was 24 years old. I have learned a lot of information after reading this book. If suppose I have learned 50 aspects from my previous 24 years of life, then after reading this book I felt as if I have gained another 50 aspects in life. Since then, reading books has become a habit and became part of my life.

Another important feature in me is the Unity of Thought, Word and Deed. This Unity will enhance Knowledge and Peace in an individual. Today I am in a position to clarify spiritual things technically, without referring back to my personal experience. This is all due to His Grace. Since my

24<sup>th</sup> year, so far I have read a few hundred religious texts and shared my knowledge with others very happily.

**My Spiritual Contribution through Religious Texts:** I purchased 3 booklets namely `Baba`s Tips to Students`, `Baba`s Tips to Parents` and `Baba`s Tips to Teachers`. Later I translated these booklets from English to Telugu. Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, Visakapatnam were also planning to print these booklets into Telugu. The DTP copies of the Telugu Version of these booklets were with Mr.Vardhana Rao, who was reading them on his way to Puttaparthi, in Train. Mr.Prakash Rao, Visakapatnam happened to meet Mr.Vardhana Rao on train, and happened to see the Telugu Version of the booklets, read them and after being satisfied with the contents, with my permission took possession of these 3 booklets. Mr.Prakash Rao after reaching Puttaparthi got these booklets blessed by Bhagawan Baba, and got them printed at Visakapatnam. These booklets were inaugurated by Mr.Anjanaiah, our then State President of the Organisation. These booklets acknowledged my contribution as a translator. Mr.Anjanaiah after knowing about me, as the translator, immediately called our Organisation`s District officials and appointed me as the Study Circle Convener of East Godavari. Thus Mr.Anjanaiah without seeing me or hearing about my personal details, has assigned me this duty. I felt this as a Divine Blessing and felt very happy.

As a Study Circle Convener of the district, I must convey the message of the Lord to His devotees. I was very eager to do that. But nobody showed interest to conduct such meetings in their local places. On their request, I could conduct only few meetings. In one of the district meetings, I expressed this lapse, and told them that they must utilize my services. But there was no improvement. What to do? Should I hold on to the job or quit this post? This is God`s Blessing. Who am I to resign? I prayed God to show me a way. I submitted Surrender at His Feet. I have decided to put all spiritual information, in a nut shell, in a small book form, based on the teachings of Bhagawan Baba. I have named this book as the Alphabets of Spirituality. In this book 60 aspects of Spiritual information related to Body, Mind, Intelligences and the Spiritual Heart are briefed. They serve as basic needs of Spirituality. After completing this book, I gave it to Mr.Vardhana Rao, who opined the contents as simply excellent. This book has contained a few personal experiences to which Mr.Vardhana Rao objected. Those few personal experiences will help the readers to understand spirituality better, I claimed.

What are the 60 fundamental aspects I covered in that book? The contents are presented in a very simple way. English language has 26 alphabets. Telugu language has 56 alphabets. Just like that Spirituality will have 60 aspects and I gave them a brief account of each. Using Alphabets we form Words. And using Words, we form a Sentence. And using Sentences, we form a Paragraph. And using Paragraphs, we form a Lesson or a Chapter. Any language which starts with Alphabets will expand to infinite levels. Likewise, after learning these 60 fundamentals of Spirituality one can attain greater spiritual heights.

This book with 60 aspects of Spirituality is designed on the basis of Bhagawan Baba`s teachings to the humanity. These 60 aspects are explained under 3 heads.

**1. SPIRITUALITY:** Under this head the six pre-requisites of Spirituality are presented. They are

1. Good Behavior (Sath Pravarthana).
2. Good Intelligences (Sath Buddhi)
3. Always Follow Truth (Sathya Nirathi)

4. Discipline (Krama Sikshana)

5. Devotion (Bhakthi)

6. Duty Bound (Karthavya Paalana)

The second item here is Good Intelligences. Bhagawan Baba has explained this intelligence in 11 forms. They are Plain Intelligence, Discriminative Intelligence, Common Intelligence, Unbiased Intelligence, Selfless Intelligence, Stable Intelligence, Decision Making Intelligence, Analytic Intelligence, Creative Intelligence, Farmer's Intelligence and Matured Intelligence.

**MIND:** The second topic is the Mind. There are 16 aspects to be learned regarding Mind. They are the 6 impurities which contaminate the Mind, the 6 Good qualities which strengthen our Mind, and the 4 characteristics of the Mind.

The 6 impurities of the Mind are Desire, Anger, Miserliness, Getting attracted to Worldly things, Pride and Jealousy. Every man must get rid of these six impurities from his mind.

Our Mind is always busy. Our Mind will maintain its purity if we practice 6 Good qualities. They are To develop Inner Vision, Sense Control, to Create Interest towards God, to go beyond the dualities of life, to develop attention towards good things of life and Follow our Indweller's Voice.

These six qualities will strengthen our Mind. Only when our Mind is strengthened, it can control the unwanted 3 of the 4 characteristics of the Mind. The 4 characteristics of the Mind are its Speed, Instability, Fleeting Mind and Power of the Mind. Only when we control the first 3 characteristics of our Mind, we can really grasp the Mind Power. Such a Mind will reflect our true nature. Such a Mind will pave way from a limited state to an Infinite State.

**3. SPIRITUAL HEART:** The third topic is our Spiritual Heart. Vishaya Vaasanas condense our heart. Human Values broaden our heart. And when we follow Human Values all the time God will bless us with 18 Divine Qualities.

The 4 Vishaya Vaasanas (habits) are Violence, Invasion, to compare ourselves with others and to defend ourselves to cover our mistakes.

The 5 Human Values are Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-Violence

When the Human Values are practiced all the time, God blesses us with 18 Divine Qualities.

For constantly following Truth, four Divine Qualities are developed in Man. They are Fearlessness, Courage, Humility and Detachment.

By constantly practicing Righteousness the 5 Divine Qualities manifested in us. They are Duty Bound, Sense Control, Discipline, Patience and Perseverance.

Peace will confer 3 Divine Qualities on practice. They are Satisfaction, Cheerfulness and Equanimity.

Love will promote 4 Divine Qualities, namely Kindness, Forgiveness, Service and Sacrifice.

Non-Violence will incorporate 2 Divine Qualities in man upon regular practice. They are Compassion and Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man.

In this way 17 aspects in Spirituality, 16 aspects with regard to Mind and 27 aspects with regard to Spiritual Heart comprise a total of 60 aspects for Spiritual Progress.

With the combination of Alphabets, a Word is formed. To explain this, the seven Characteristics of Righteousness is explained.

With the combination of Words, a Sentence is formed. To explain this, the nine forms of Devotion are explained.

With the combination of Sentences, a Paragraph is formed. To explain this, the seven attributes of an Action are explained.

With the combination of Paragraphs, a lesson is formed. To explain this Bhagawan Baba's message of WATCH is presented.

With a group of lessons, a book is compiled. To explain this, LOVE ALL. SERVE ALL. HELP EVER. HURT NEVER has been explained.

At this point I concluded this book by saying that any Language starts with Alphabets and grows into Infinite proportions. In the same way, if man learns these 60 Spiritual Alphabets, he can move from his finite state to an infinite state in spirituality.

Man must realize the importance of knowledge and must thrive for it. Real Knowledge is Practical Knowledge.

Bhagawan Baba in His Infinite Mercy has given a lot of Spiritual Information to man. He stated that Knowledge exists in 5 states. They are Bookish Knowledge (Pustaka Gnaanam), Half Knowledge (Midimidi Gnaanam), General Knowledge (Loka Gnaanam), Discriminative Knowledge (Vichakshana Gnaanam) and Practical Knowledge (Anubhava Gnaanam).

Man must start from Bookish Knowledge and convert it into Practical Knowledge – the Real Knowledge. Baba says that the first four steps of this Knowledge as incomplete.

**Progress Achieved through Refusal:** One must realize the validity, importance and the greatness of Practical Spirituality. I shall narrate here a few examples here wherein the disciple's pleas were not accepted by the Masters. Infact for a common man, there is nothing wrong in their pleas. But the Master is a Master after all. They see what others can't see or imagine. Thus the Masters in some cases lovingly rejected the pleas of their disciples, and on some instances reprimanded them. Finally it is the Masters, who won the game for their disciples Glory.

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa has many saintly disciples as well as married disciples. Sri Naaga Mahasaya is a house-holder disciple. Even though he was married, he never entertained marital life but maintained celibacy during his life. On one occasion, Naaga Mahasaya approached Sri Ramakrishna and prayed him to accept him as his saintly disciple, for which Sri Ramakrishna refused him gently by saying "You need not leave your family ties. Leading a family life, you can attain liberation". Sri Ramakrishna in his last days has suffered Cancer. Naaga Mahasaya again went to Sri Ramakrishna and pleaded him to transfer his cancer upon himself, for which Sri Ramakrishna replied, "You are capable of that act. You can transfer my Cancer upon yourself. But I am not ready to accept your plea". A common man will not understand the efficiency and importance of Sense Control. Swami Vivekananda, who realized the greatness of Naaga Mahasaya, was always polite towards him.

On one Occasion Swami Vivekananda went to Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and pleaded him to grant him with a vision of a blissful State, which he frequently experiences. For a common man there appears no wrong in Vivekananda`s plea. But after hearing Swami Vivekananda`s plea, Sri Ramakrishna reprimanded him thus. “How selfish are you? When so many men around you are suffering with their weaknesses, instead of driving out their weaknesses, you want to enjoy a Blissful Sate? “Even though his Master refused his plea, he could realize his Master`s message. After Sri Ramakrishna`s demise, Swami Vivekananda travelled all over India and other countries and roared like a lion to drive their weaknesses out. He sacrificed his life to uplift the Spirituality in Indians.

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa rejected Naaga Mahasaya`s plea twice. The first time, Sri Naaga Mahasaya was not accepted as a saintly disciple. And on the second instance, Sri Naaga Mahasaya`s request to transfer his Master`s cancer upon himself was rejected. Even though on both the occasions his Master rejected him, his faith towards his Master improved with time. And coming to Swami Vivekananda his Master not only rejected his plea but also reprimanded him. In spite of all their rejection, they stood by their Master and implemented their Master`s message to perfection and attained Glory in their lives.

Even in my life, I too had such an experience. By the time I completed my M Sc, I was 24. In 1982, I went to Puttaparthi. At Parthy, Baba gives interviews daily to many of His devotees. I was not a realized soul then. During this time my Divine fervor has increased. I had a strong feeling that Baba will give me an interview and guide me through to Realisation. If Baba does not give me an interview, I decided and determined not to take His Padanamaskar. Baba while giving Darshan stood right in front of me for one full minute. I am seeing Baba, but Baba was seen seeing all others except me. After one minute Baba moved ahead. But just before Baba could move away, I took His Padanamaskar without my effort and knowledge. How can I take His Padanamaskar without my involvement? On that day, Baba stood right in front me for such a long time. I was eagerly waiting for an interview, but Baba has other ideas. He has not fulfilled my Desire. But I felt extremely happy on that day for taking His Padanamaskar. I had no regrets for my wish being not fulfilled. When I introspected the entire incident, I could realize the OMNISCIENCE of Baba. The Omniscient Baba knows what is better for me. With this experience, I spiritually became quite strong. After experiencing Baba`s Omniscience, I am in a position to say, “Baba, I am no more in need of your interviews. I have realized your Omniscience. That is enough for me”.

The same year I went to Puttaparthi again in October for Vijaya Dasami as a sevadal. All the programs were held at the Poornachandra Hall. As the programs were going on, one day I developed a strange idea, which became very strong in me. “If Bhagawan Baba is God, then Baba will come for Darshan into Poorna Chandra Auditorium at exact 4.00.00pm”. I never yield to such challenges. But on that particular day my situation was different and I decided to test Baba. On that day, Baba came from behind the stage, pulling aside the curtain and came on to the stage. I checked my time. It was exactly 4.00.00pm. I was perplexed. I was in a dual state. I don`t know if I have to feel happy for Baba giving Darshan exactly at 4.00.00pm, or to feel sorry for testing Baba. Who am I to test Baba? On that day I was doing service at the far end corner of the Poornachandra Hall. The hall is packed with devotees. Baba from behind the stage will have no chance to see my watch. So in this way, even when I have not asked for, He blessed me with His OMNIPRESENCE.

I was a realized soul at the end of 25 years. But before God Realisation, God prepared me well with His Omniscience and Omnipresence.

**My Goals after my God Realisation:** I completed 25 years by August, 1983 when I was a realized soul. The formless attributes of the Lord have been realized. From that moment my Goals have been changed. I surrendered my life at His disposal. Since then my Kinship with our God has started. During this Kinship with our Lord, he had blessed me with many incidents wherein I am not at all

involved. I don't possess any miracle powers. I am just like any other common man. After His Realisation, I requested Him to utilize me as His Tool. God assigned me a Responsibility, to reduce the Corruption in Man. Can I fulfill this responsibility? God is getting the work done through this body. How? He knows better than me. "Increase the Good and reduce the Sin in man". This is the only means of achieving the goal.

**Write a Book on Spirituality:** After God Realisation, my Kinship with our lord has started. In this way 4 years passed since God Realisation. Since my 28<sup>th</sup> year I was in a Samadhi state, i.e., as long as I am awake I am always in tune with our Lord. In this Samadhi state my mind was saturated with Spiritual things. In 1987, I went to Puttaparthi for Guru Poornima. When I was in Parthy this dialogue took place between me and my Indweller.

My Indweller: Write a book on Spirituality.

Me: My status is to read religious books. I am still not capable of writing a Spiritual Book.

My Indweller: No. You must start the Spiritual Book right now.

Me: Today Spiritual Books are written by Religious Heads and illumined souls. So I shall not write, Swami.

My Indweller: Today all religious heads are taking care of their Sustenance and Maintenance. They are not contributing any Good to the Society.

After this Response from my Indweller, I could not continue this dialogue any further. It was a Divine Order for me. I was surprised and became upset with the Divine information. Immediately I have taken up to writing this book. I attempted this book in English. I gave the title "The Time bound Sparks, Coincidences and Responses from the Divinity".

What are Sparks? A very big heap of grass needs a small Spark to reduce it into ashes. In the same way the ignorance in man can be destroyed by a small spark of Divine Knowledge, says Baba. Baba with this loving concern for the Humanity, has delivered thousands of messages. Baba's message has Universal Application. This book contained few such sparks of Divine message.

What is a Coincidence? Coincidence reflects the same information from two individuals sitting at two different places. While writing this book, sitting in my home, I used to read the same information the next day morning in a newspaper. How is it possible? It is God who wrote this information through me, one day before. A few such Coincidences had reflected in this book.

What are Responses? Responses are replies for my queries. But the questions were not preplanned. At that point of time, based on the circumstances and situations, the question and answers spree occurred. Even the dialogues were written in this book, well in advance of their actual materialization. So it is He who wrote through me these Sparks, Coincidences and the Responses.

**This Book contained only Political Science and not Politics:** I have started this book in July, 1987 on Guru Poornima and continued till February, 1988. In this 8 months time around 150 – 200 pages text was written. I have shown this book to 5 – 6 Sai devotees. All of them gave me this book back stating that the contents are very good. Mr.D.V.Krishna Rao, Vanasthalipuram was one such reader. I asked him if the book contained any Politics. He spontaneously replied that the book carried only "Political Science" and has no "Politics".

The Corruption in man must be minimized. The lapses, errors and the mistakes must be minimized. In our Society, this corruption is in 4 states. They are Individual Corruption, Family Corruption, Official Corruption and Political Corruption.

In the individual level, a man in a selfish way thinks about his own individual benefits. In the Family level, man will think of his family members, friends and relatives. In the Official level, man will misuse his Official Machinery and Status. In the Leadership level, in the name of professional politics, the service motive is totally lost. This selfish attitude and behavior is a crime. Any crime or offence will have punishment. What if the Officers and Leaders commit crime? With their power they are committing crime and escaping the punishment. Just like a coin which has two sides, these corrupt men will speak the good side of the coin and fool the people in practice. All these men feel that they can evade punishment with their intellect. But India is a Land of Action. The fruits of Actions have to be borne by every individual. This is a Divine Law. Before God all men are equal. No man on Earth can escape the punishment from God. This is Absolute Truth. Everyone must realize this.

The incidents I am going to narrate here have been written by me, sitting in my home in 1987-88. All these incidents written here are guided by my Indweller. All these incidents have materialized just like that. There was no prior preparation. They all occurred in a thrice. I have documented these incidents in my book. The persons involved in this book are very prominent persons of India. I am in no way related to these incidents. But He showed me the incidents well in advance. I just wrote them. I request the readers to go through these incidents as political science only and avoid giving them any political touches. This is my heartfelt plea to one and all.

Lord Krishna was born in a prison, at mid night. Krishna`s father Vaasudev carried the new born Krishna to Yashoda, replaced Yashoda`s just born girl child Yogamaaya with Lord Krishna, and returned back to the prison with Yogamaaya. After reaching the prison, Yogamaaya started crying aloud. The demon king Kamsa was informed of the birth of the child. Kamsa in order to kill the new born baby has thrown it into air. Yogamaaya disappeared, but gave a warning to Kamsa stating that his terminator is growing in Brindavan. God gives a chance to everybody to correct his lapses. A few of them will make good use of this suggestion or warning, while others will neglect and misuse this warning. Kamsa misused this warning. He sent his men to kill all newly born babies in Brindavan. As a result of Yogamaaya`s warning, all the lives of the newly born babies were put to danger. In this context, a common man will feel that such a Divine warning to Kamsa is not appropriate because with this warning the lives of all newly born babies were subjected to risk by Kamsa. Kamsa has sent many demons to kill the newly born babies, but all of them were killed by Lord Krishna. All the new born babies were safe in Brindavan. We know only a few incidents of how Lord Krishna destroyed these demons. But there are many incidents which were not recorded. Through such incidents God will reveal His Omnipotent Qualities. Who can withstand God`s Omnipotence? All the demons sent by Kamsa have not returned back. They were killed by Krishna. Kamsa realized that it is not possible to kill Krishna in this way. So he decided to summon Krishna to his court and then kill Him. In the process Kamsa was killed by Lord Krishna. In this context, “Yogamaaya`s warning to Kamsa is only Political Science and not Politics”.

**First Incident:** This is related to Smt. Indira Gandhi, ex Prime Minister of India. On 2-6-1984 `Operation Bluestar` was conducted to flush out the Sikh Terrorists from the Golden Temple at Amritsar. In this operation more than 400 Sikh terrorists lost their lives, before the Government took possession of the Golden Temple. For handling such a sensitive issue in this way, Smt Indira Gandhi received accolades from all quarters of the society.

Everyday people gather in large numbers at Smt Indira Gandhi`s residence, and Indira Gandhi used to spend some time with them. This is her daily routine. I think it was 5-6-1984. That night on Doordarshan TV News, I have seen her talking with the visitors at her residence. She was seen telling them saying that she does not like Operation Bluestar, but to flush out the terrorists she had no other go. She was saying these words with a smiling face. At that point of time a Sikh Security Guard was behind her. I could read his feelings. Oh! Smt Indira Gandhi is committing a very grave mistake here. The accolades she received for conducting the Operation Bluestar were being misused for selfish purposes. In this operation more than 400 lives were lost.

Me: What is the outcome of this selfish motive?

My Indweller: Death of Indira Gandhi.

Me: As a Prime Minister of India, she gets top security. Who can kill her amidst that tight security?

My Indweller: By her own Security Men.

Me: Who can be that?

My Indweller: Sikhs.

The question of when this incident will occur has not entered my mind. This question and answer spree was completed, just as I was watching the TV, in a thrice.

On 31-10-1984 the above question and answer spree was materialized exactly as revealed to me and at the same place too. This is not a cock and bull story. This is the Truth. After her death, I felt that the Sikh I have seen on 5-6-1984 might be Mr.Beant Singh. All those who read this narration can analyse the situation from all angles. I never hate anybody, so naturally I had no bad opinion about Mrs Indira Gandhi. I request the readers to understand this event as an incidence of political science.

The moral of this incident states that all are equal before God. Man may feel that he can escape the punishment from man, but he cannot escape the punishment from God.

**Second Incident:** In 1987 July, I started the Spiritual Book as stated earlier, with the first sentence as thus. "Today`s Religious Heads are taking care of their Sustenance and Maintenance only. They are not doing any Good to the Society". This is a very serious and objectionable criticism. If this criticism carries no proof then nobody will appreciate it. I will be made a Scapegoat for my invalid statements. Surrendering at His Feet, I started the Spiritual Book and proceeded further. God is great. He has shown me a significant proof for my statements. But the person involved in this incident is none other than Sri Jayendra Saraswathi, the Religious Head of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam. On 1-8-1987, Sri Jayendra Saraswathi left to an undisclosed destination. His whereabouts were not known for a fortnight. During this fortnight, `The Hindu` daily covered this news on the front page. During this fortnight, Mr.Jayendra Saraswathi has spent at Tallareevu. During this time I showed so much of attention on Sri Jayendra Saraswathi, that I viewed him as another Swami Vivekananda. I expected that on his return back he will implement great things. Upsetting all my calculations, quite opposite has happened. After spending a fortnight in Tallareevu, he returned back to Kanchi. Two days later, a 7-Point Program was released by Sri Jayendra Saraswathi. This 7-Point Program was aimed at preventing conversions from Hindu religion into other Religions. Can this 7-Point Program prevent Hindus from converting into other Religions? No. This is not possible. This 7-Point Program is nothing but an act of ignorance. The great Adi Sankara has seen the Supreme Lord in all men. How about Sri Jayendra Saraswathi? What does this 7-Point Program mean?

**Third Incident:** This incident is related to Mr.N.T.Rama Rao. He founded the Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh. Before entering Politics, he was a famous film actor. On the first instance when he came to Power in 1982 he acted as the Chief Minister of the State for around two years. As a Chief Minister of the state, he bombarded the ruling party in the Centre in an undemocratic way. As a result, the Centre has dismissed the Rama Rao Government within 2 years. Again elections were held. But just before elections, he made a film `Brahmarishi Viswamitra`. I just took it as a routine affair. But just before the elections, Mr Rama Rao presented himself before the public in the disguise of Swami Vivekananda. The moment I saw him in the garbs of Swami Vivekananda, a dialogue started between me and My Indweller.

Me: Mr Rama Rao is presenting himself before public in the garbs of Swami Vivekananda? This is political corruption. This is a heinous crime. In our Society there are many persons who wear saintly garbs. But among them all may not be sincere saints. Among them there will be some faulty saints too. But Swami Vivekananda is not an ordinary saint. He is a Master Saint. Mr.Rama Rao presenting himself in Swami Vivekananda`s garbs is a deliberate lapse. Mr Rama Rao has produced the film `Brahmarishi Viswamitra`. He might have made this film for political gains too. Mr.Rama Rao cannot compare himself with sage Viswamitra either. For making such a movie for political gains is again an act of political corruption.

My Indweller: Yes.

Me: For making two corrupt acts what is the punishment?

My Indweller: “He will lose his power, when he is in power”.

After this question and answer spree, in the next 5 years no incident has taken place. That means Mr.Rama Rao has completed this 5 year term in a normal way. For the next 5 years, Congress Party ruled the state. So in this way 10 years passed. During these 10 years I used to think of the `Punishment` now and then. Sometimes I used to doubt if the so called `punishment` will materialize at all. But I was never anxious about the final outcome. Everything will follow the Divine Plan. Before the next general elections, Mr Rama Rao has married Lakshmi Parvathi. After a break of 5 years, in 1994 Mr Rama Rao regained the power. His Party has gained full majority. In spite of this majority, he could not rule the state for even one full year. He has lost the power to Mr Chandra Babu Naidu of the same party. In this way, the Punishment got materialized after a gap of nearly 11 years i.e. “He lost his power when he is in power”.

**Fourth Incident:** On 25-1-1988 in my book I wrote about Mr M.G.Ramachandran, Ex Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. Mr M.G.R as he is popularly known, as a Chief Minister always co-operated with the ruling Centre Party and in return he used to secure huge sums for the development of his state. In this way MGR contributed well for the development of his state. In my book, I wrote that all Chief Ministers must follow MGR`s attitude and achieve development of their states. On 26-1-1988, MGR was awarded “Bharat Ratna”, the highest Civilian award in India. I felt very happy for this award. Who made me write about MGR on 25-1-1988? He is my Indweller.

**Fifth Incident:** Mr V.P.Singh had a good reputation as a Congress Leader. When Mr Singh came out of Congress, I have expected a lot from him. I was keenly observing how Mr Singh will offer his services to the Nation. Months were rolling by but Mr.Singh has nothing much to show. “Delay”is different from “Steadiness”. Mr Singh has a lot of political experience. With so much of experience why is this “Delay”. This Delay will mean that he is inefficient. In my book I have concluded that Mr Singh is an inefficient leader like many other leaders of the land. Within 2 days, Mr.Singh announced

his political party. There was nothing special in his agenda. It was just another political party. Who made me write this conclusion about Mr Singh? It was again My Indweller.

In the same book, I have praised two stalwarts namely Mr Chandrasekhar, the Janata Party President and Mr Atul Behari Vajpayee, the BJP President. In that book I mentioned that these two leaders are efficient enough to rule the country. As time passed on Mr.Chandrasekhar acted as a caretaker Prime Minister of India for a brief period of 4-6 months. And Mr Atul Behari Vajpayee ruled the country for a period of around 6 years. Who praised these two leaders in my book? It was My Indweller.

**First Aim for Good and later Greatness Follows:** We must take care of our children from the age of five. Ravana, the demon king, mastered the four Vedas and the six Sastras. But what is the use? He never put his learning into practice. His ego increased, and with his six sins of the mind and the four Vishaya Vaasanas of the heart, he lost control of himself. Hence Ravana in spite of his high educational qualification is always referred to as a symbol of sin. But the sorry thing about this materialistic world is that, Ravana because of his educational qualification is treated as a `Great man`. Today`s parents want their children to become `Great`. On the other side of the coin we have Rama, who practiced what he learned. By implementing the learned things, Rama is termed `Good` by the Society. Rama with his ideal behavior stands as a symbol of Righteousness. Today`s parents must wish their children to be `Good` but not `Great`. “Once they achieve Goodness and continue with it, automatically Greatness is achieved” says Baba.

**Our Children must grow along with Bal Vikas and Social Service:** “How to lead a Human Life? How to make a beginning”? I prayed the lord for an answer. God responded me in a very simple way. “Every child must join Bala Vikas at the age of five. In this way every child from the age of five to sixteen must continue with Bala Vikas, learning all the good things of human life. And after completing 16 years, he must take up to Social Service and continue with it till the end of his life”.

What is Bala Vikas? Bal Vikas as the name suggests will develop the personality of the child. All children from the age of five will pursue with their educational career. A Bal Vikas class is conducted on every Sunday, for one and a half hour duration, wherein all the good things in life are taught to the children with simple examples by the Bal Vikas Guru. All the hidden and latent talents of the children will be reflected at a young age. All the children shine in various activities like singing songs, playing games, apart from improving in their academic career. They respect their elders. These Bal Vikas children with their discipline and determination will build a strong base for their future. All those parents who want to see all round development of their children must send their wards to Bal Vikas without fail. Bala Vikas will lead to Loka Vikas, says Baba. Loka Vikas means Universal Development. If one Bala Vikas student continues with Bala Vikas, then the entire family will be benefitted. This is the general opinion about Bala Vikas, in the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisations.

After crossing 16 years of age, the Bal Vikas child must enter into the Organisation to take part in the service activities. For how many hours they are supposed to do service in the organization. To begin with, it is just 4 hours of service per week. Later he can gradually improve his service hours. This is possible. Baba advises us to do 6 hours of service per day.

Every one must take note of the above two suggestions related to Bal Vikas and Service. God`s message has Universal Application. It breaks all barriers like caste, creed, colour, race and religion. Thus when our children are taken care of at a young age they will always remain as `positive`. Their value in all the four levels namely the individual level, the family level, the official

level and the leadership level will remain as `positive` and their actions will always yield positive results. In this way we must shape the future of our children. This will improve the conditions of our society.

**We want Good Leaders:** Today we have three types of leaders whose value is `1`, `0` or `-1`. We want Good leaders, whose value must be always `1`. Those leaders whose value is `0` and `-1` either drain away the resources or misuse the resources, and hence are not deserved to rule us. We must streamline our Election Process. Only those deserving leaders must be made `Eligible` to contest the elections. The rest must be screened out from contesting - as our leaders. Is it possible? If there is a will, there will be a way. The Divine will had shown me the way. The way is again very simple. It applies thus:

“As a first step we will select a leader with value `1` at a village level. His `Age` must be restricted between 30 to 40 years of age. He must possess two qualifications. 1. He must be a Bala Vikas student for at least 10 years. 2. He must join a Service Organisation in his 16<sup>th</sup> year and must do 15 years of Service in various activities of the organization. Men possessing these two pre-requisites only must contest the elections at the village level.

Next, let us come to the Assembly level. Every Tom, Dick and Harry must not be permitted to contest the elections. They must be within the `Age` limit of 40 to 50 years only. They must satisfy three conditions. 1. They must have 10 years of Bala Vikas experience. 2. They must have 15 years of Service experience after Bal Vikas. 3. They must have 5 to 10 years of Service experience as a Village Head. If the candidates fulfill these three conditions, they can serve as good leaders in Assembly.

Next comes the Parliament level. The `Age` to contest the elections must be between 50 to 60 years only. In addition to the 3 pre-requisites at the Assemble level, they must have 5-10 years of working experience as a Leader at Assembly level.

At every stage, the age and service experience factor play a key role in selecting the deserving leaders. As the leadership level grows, the available resources too increase. Good leadership will facilitate all round development.

In India, we have Rajya Sabha. All the Efficient and Eminent men in their related fields can enter into the Rajya Sabha directly and can contribute to the development of their respective fields.

If we take the above measures, we will be safe under able administration. Good Leaders will make good use of the God given resources and enable Peace and Prosperity to flourish in our Society.

The God given Resources are always abundant and same for one and all. But we must think of the values of the Human Numbers, who handle these resources. If we want Rama Rajya, it is at our disposal. If we want a Demonic reign, it is again at our disposal. So first of all we must feel grateful to our Lord for having supplemented us with abundant and best available resources at our disposal. If we proceed further with Faith in God, we will receive His Blessings and Grace to opt for good leadership.

## 13. MY DISCIPLINE

“Irrespective of a person, place, time and action we need Discipline to achieve success” says Baba. But Baba cautions, “Both Discipline and Devotion will be felt as a burden by all beginners. Until their utility value is realized they will remain as a burden”. We wish success in all our endeavors. So we must imbibe Discipline in all our efforts.

We see a farmer. He will tie a stone at the tip of a Snake-gourd. The weight of the stone will enable the Snake-gourd to grow straight without any curves. “If the burden of the stone is beyond limit, then it will cause damage to the Snake-gourd”, says Baba. Hence we all must imbibe Discipline to optimize our lives. All those who are disciplined will always relish a disciplined company around them.

Right from my birth, I got habituated to Discipline – on my own. I was disciplined to the core. I always relied on God given Intelligences. As such my behavior pleased everyone around me. My relatives used to advice their children to behave like me. As such they all received me well. In addition to my Discipline my Service attitude has proved a big boost to my behavior. Wherever I go or to which ever place I was invited, I used to offer my services on my own and used to stay there till the end of the work. I never expected anything in return for my services. But at the end I used to receive words of praise from their heart. Along with me, there will be others who used to get involved in these works, but only on request. And again they used to skip the work at some point of time. But I used to stay till the end of the work. This is the difference between me and others. This shows my commitment to the task assigned.

And coming to my home, from a very young age of 7 or 8, I used to get up before 5.00am, study for some time, followed by some physical exercises, get milk from the milk booth, boil the Milk, prepare Tea and boil Water for Rice preparation. At that young age there were no gas stoves. I used to do all this cooking on a kerosene stove. My mother used to wake up by 6.00am. By this time I used to complete all these works. My mother loves me a lot. I was born 12 years after my parents’ marriage. During this period my mother performed many spiritual rituals for a child. With these rituals and Divine fervor, she named me Eswaradatta Subrahmanya Vivekananda Reddy. What is the status of present day pregnant women? They are taking rest watching TV programs and in the process giving birth to unrest. All mothers must realize this Truth. Wish and pray for good children to enjoy many blissful moments ahead.

I used to do all my household activities on my own from a very young age. In all my household works, I never entertained a second request from my parents or elders. I was never lazy. Act now is my policy.

In this way right from my younger days I got habituated to a disciplined life. For my discipline my childhood and youth went on quite smoothly without many failures. But after the completion of my education when I started to settle down in my life, my efforts and my discipline never served my purpose. Man is a social animal. He will depend upon others to meet his needs. Everyone must bear in mind the responsibility of Social Awareness. Everyone must follow discipline in fulfilling their responsibilities. In our society, some will oblige their duties with discipline, while

others neglect their duties with indiscipline. Today in our Society how many are doing justice to their duties? How many are efficient and non-corrupt in their efforts? Today how many are politically efficient? Today the scenario of politics has changed. Professional Politics came to stay.

We all live in a Society – the common platform for one and all. What will be the status of our Society if some of us practice Discipline and some others follow indiscipline? Our Society will ruin. We have ACB, the Anti Corruption Bureau. Anti means to oppose. How is this ACB working? ACB is strongly opposing Corruption but failing miserably to tackle it. We very often read in newspapers that very big corrupt fishes were caught by ACB. As long as ACB adapt this measure, it cannot control corruption. It will only promote corruption. How? The men involved in ACB are far less when compared to corrupt men in the society. With the available men and resources, the ACB must change its tactics to control this corruption menace. Example: A few years back, a fire accident broke out in a School in Chennai, and a number of students became victims of fire. In order to avoid its recurrence, the Government has passed a Law. As per the Law, every School must obtain a Fire Certificate from Fire Department. This law is formulated for the safety of the children. So far so good. But the rules stay good on paper with little practical application. Before the resolution of this law, the Fire Department personnel are limited to their salaries, but with this law in force, their monthly earnings have been increased. This means a seed of corruption has been sown in the Fire Department. In a similar way, most of the laws are promoting corruption in our Society.

‘Udyogam’ is a Telugu term meaning job, duty or profession. If we split the term Udyogam, it becomes ‘Ud+Yogam’. There is ‘Yogam’ in our ‘Udyogam’ says Baba. What is ‘Yogam’? “Following Truth we must abide to the unity of Thought, Word and Deed. This Unity is referred to as Penance. This penance will lead to the ‘Efficiency of a work’. This Efficiency of work is referred as Yogam, which will further transform into Efficiency and Equanimity. This Equanimity will have Universal application, says Baba. But today if we ask anybody ‘why he is doing his job?’ he will respond “Means of Earnings”. Man must not satisfy with just “Earnings” from his job, duty or profession but must thrive for “Yogam”. There is no lack of such efficient men in our society. But their numbers must increase. These efficient men will definitely improve the prevailing conditions of their wards. We all must aim for the welfare of our Society. “Yogam” has another meaning i.e. to Unite with the Divine. Thus man can attain Liberation if only he contributes for the welfare of our Society, says Baba.

When we refer back to our history, we know that Rama has spent 14 years in exile. In these 14 years Rama suffered agony for 1 year due to Sita’s abduction by Raavana. In the same way even the righteous Paandavas spent 12 years of exile followed by 1 year of exile in disguise. Even though Paandavas led a disciplined life, they suffered in the hands of Kauravas who were undisciplined. The undisciplined elders are indirectly responsible for the hardships of Rama and the Paandavas. Who is Dhritharaastra? Dhritharaastra is the father of the Kauravaas. But the meaning of Dhritharaastra is, ‘he who desires for others possessions’. “It is not proper to amass wealth without making righteous efforts” warns Baba. Today’s Society is filled with such Dhritharaastras.

Let me brief my lean trot. On my Mother’s request I got my name registered in the Employment Exchange after completing my SSC. Subsequently I got enrolled my Inter, Degree and PG in my Employment Registration one after another. In 1988 December, I got a Conductor job in APSRTC for my SSC. I joined it. In January, 1989 the Conductor’s training was completed. In this batch of 90 conductors, I was the only PG. One day during training session, our Instructor of the batch reprimanded me severely saying, “Don’t show us your PG Intellect”. At that moment I recollected the injury caused by Viraata Raja to Dharma Raja, in the august assembly of King’s court. On another

occasion, when I was on duty as a conductor, a person of an Officer Cadre, with a Suit and a Tie, while boarding the bus had a fall as the bus started all of a sudden. For this fall, he shouted at me in rage as 'Bastard, etc'. At that moment, I recollected Bhima in disguise as Valala. During my life I suffered both physically and mentally during this conductor's job. At that time, I remembered Arjuna in Brihannala's disguise. My work place is Patancheru Depot and my place of residence is Municipal Colony, Malakpet. It takes 2 hours to reach from home to work place. During this Conductor's job I used to spend one night at home and another night at depot. In the Depot, I used to sleep on the floor. Because of Mosquitoes I had very little sleep in the depot. During these sleepless moments, I used to recollect Nakula and Sahadeva, who worked in disguise looking after the cattle of King Viraat.

In cities, the buses will be full of passengers. There will be many foot board passengers plying in the bus. There will be some foot board passengers who travel by bus for short distances like one stage or two. While getting down from the bus, they give the minimum fare of the ticket to the conductor and without waiting for the ticket they leave the bus. But I used to issue their ticket and throw it at them in the presence of other passengers. In 1989, the daily wages of a bus conductor was Rs 38/day and the minimum fare of the ticket is Rs2/-.

In this way I worked as a Bus Conductor for 2 months. There is an Arts and Science College in Kamareddy, Nizamabad, AP. One day Mr Jayaram Reddy along with 4 students came to my house and requested me to join in their college as Dairy Chemistry lecturer. Jayaram Reddy is a classmate in my PG. I obliged them. On the next day i.e. 18-4-1989, I joined as a lecturer in Dairy Chemistry, the last working day of the academic year. The college had no Dairy Chemistry lecturer for the entire year and hence the students of all the 4 years had not attended a single class in Dairy Chemistry. That was a Government College. After my M Sc in Dairy Chemistry, I applied for this post in the same college in 1982. Now I joined in the same college as a part time lecturer for Rs 20/class, with a schedule of 18 classes per week and a monthly payment of Rs 1440. I am writing this episode in order to narrate the official indiscipline that was prevalent in that college. The College Principal was a native of Hyderabad and he used to spend 5 days per week in Hyderabad. In his absence, Mr.Tilak was at the helm of affairs. And coming to the Dairy Science Department, Mr.Pullu Rao was its Head. It seems that the students used to earn (buy) marks for their Internals from Mr.Pullu Rao. I joined the college after Mr.Pullu Rao has left the college and Mr.Jayaram Reddy took charge of it. It was summer time. All the students were given preparation holidays to prepare for their exams. As a result the students were not regular for my classes. I used to claim payment for only those classes which I have conducted. Even though I was present to take the classes, students referring to their text books were not regular to the classes. I have not claimed payment for the non-conducted classes. Mr.Jayaram out of love for me, used to request me to claim payment for these non-conducted classes saying that I was present for the class. But I denied his request. During this period, one day the students agitated and locked the Vice Principal and the Dairy Science lecturers in a room for a few hours. I am in need of a job, but I could not relish the indiscipline. Is it necessary for me to be a part of this indiscipline? I left the job after two and a half months.

How the unseen Lord directs us is very difficult to realize. All realized souls will realize the Divine Hand at a later date. Taking permission from Jayaram Reddy I bid farewell to my Lecturer job and came back to Hyderabad. A couple of days later, I received a memo from STC, Patancheru Depot, APSRTC asking me to explain the reasons for my absence from duty. I have not relished the Conductor's job but still, I need a job, and hence I decided to join again as a Bus Conductor. Taking advantage of this memo, I met the STC and told him what all has happened in the last two and half months. He has sent me a memo, but has shown no inclination to hear me. He expressed his anger at me for my absence without intimating him. I requested him, pleaded him and tried to convince him,

but in vain. He has not only rejected my request to take me back as Conductor but went on to frighten me by saying that he will book a case against me for working in two Government Offices at a same time. I sincerely met STC to request him to take me back into RTC. But am I buying a new problem from STC? I laughed to myself from within for this unexpected predicament. I prayed my Lord to relieve and save me from STC and RTC. When I recollect this incident at a later date, I don't understand the purpose of such a memo.

During my lean period I have seen a few more such destinations but at no place I had job satisfaction. My nature is to enjoy 'Yogam' from udyogam. But at every place I remained restless. Why is this precious human life getting wasted this way? I introspected myself. Do I need to continue these jobs for the sustenance and maintenance of my family? I know my inward priorities.

During my lean days, I used to follow my Inward Path. But for this Inward Path, I could have easily cashed a few minimum tickets while working as a conductor, and claimed payment for the unattended classes as a lecturer. How can I work as an animal or a machine neglecting my Conscience?

The farmer will have natural love for the Snake-gourd. Because of this love, the farmer will tie a stone of correct weight at the tip of the Snake-gourd. But the present day politicians and the Government Officials have no such love for the Public. Before passing a resolution to enforce a Law, the pros and cons of the situation must be well discussed. In this discussion, the voice of the people (efficient men in this relative field) is missing. The involvement of the ACB is also missing. Without the representation of the People and the ACB, the rules are formulated which serve no purpose to the society. These Laws instead of serving the people will become a burden to them. It is here in this context the role of the ACB gains much significance. Along with the Government Officials and the Politicians, ACB must involve in the discussion and enforcement of every Law. Only then the people can be benefitted with good administration. Only then the ACB(Anti Corruption Bureau) can transform into CCB(Corruption Control Bureau).

## 14. MY DETACHMENT

The option to have faith in the unseen God is left to our individual discrimination. The Loving Incarnation Sathya Sai Baba of Puttaparthi is the Supreme Lord for all of us. Those incidents which have been held in His presence will serve as lessons to all mankind. These spiritual incidents need not be considered as personal experiences, but on the other hand they must be considered as spiritual lessons for one and all for they shower a lot of light and wisdom on humanity. I shall narrate here two such incidents relating to detachment.

A few years back, a lecturer working in Bhagawan Baba's college at Puttaparthi, who developed a lot of detachment towards his worldly possessions, has decided to quit his job, leave for Himalayas and do penance to attain liberation. He has written his resignation letter to this effect and handed it personally to Baba during Darshan time. Baba, the Omniscient Lord, took this letter and without opening the letter called this lecturer for an interview. As usual the interview room is full of devotees. In the interview room Baba told the lecturer thus, "You want to go to the Himalayas to do penance and attain liberation. You may take any number of births but without My Grace and Blessings you cannot attain Liberation". With this suggestion, he has given up the idea to leave for Himalayas and continued as lecturer to win the Grace of God.

In another incident, a Sai devotee and a resident of Bangalore has developed a strong desire to leave for Himalayas, after his retirement from job in order to do penance and attain liberation. For this effort he wished to attain permission from Baba directly. Baba after hearing his plea, suggested him that he need not go to the Himalayas to do penance and attain liberation, and that he can as well attain liberation through Service to the society. With this suggestion even this devotee has stayed back at Bangalore to render Selfless Service to the Society, through the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisations, after his retirement.

Detachment is related to our Inward Path and hence we are unaware of each other's detachment status. How many around me are aware of my detachment? I want to express my detachment status in few words. When I was below 25 years of age; and when I was still issueless; I have decided that I shall hand over all my responsibilities to my children and lead a detached life after I attained an age of 48. Baba never advises men to leave their wives and families till their death. But what is my detachment status? I can leave my wife, family, wealth and other possessions at any given point of time and leave my home empty handed. I am nearing old age. How can I live alone during old age? This body is going to drop dead any moment! So why worry about this body? If I leave my home how then can I maintain my body? By begging alms! After leading my life so decently till now should I start begging during my last days? When you are detached from all bondages, then you will belong to this world. When you become a part of this world, then the question of begging does not arise. We all know that Shirdi Sai, The Supreme Lord during His Incarnation has begged alms to take care of His body requirements.

Our Supreme Lord knows my detachment status. He created confidence in me that the Ravulapalem Service Center will stand as a symbol of excellence for other service centers to follow. He ordered me to construct a service centre to cater to the needs of tens of people. What does this mean to me? God is handing over me a special responsibility so that I can stay at Ravulapalem till my last breath taking care of 'Astadhala Seva Pushpam'. Our elders claim that our body is meant for the service of others.

Suppose I have a strong desire to leave home? Who on earth can recognize my spiritual status? None. Can I share my spiritual knowledge with others around if I leave my home? May not be possible. Under the circumstances is it advisable for me to leave my home? Not necessary. But my desire to quit my home and travel all over the country, all alone, still persists. What will happen in future is up to His Will.

Both my children were married. Everybody will state that after performing the children's marriages, the responsibilities of the parents will be over. Is it so? If the parents have no children, can we state that they have no responsibilities? Stating that our responsibilities are over, how many of us can claim or opt for detachment? What is the status of the so called parents today? They claim that their children are married and are relieved from responsibilities, but when it comes to detachment, they are not going to give up their worldly possessions till their last breath.

At the present moment, I do not think of living for the sake of my family members. I always think of the welfare of our Society, even since my Realisation. If that is so, have I contributed anything to our society? May be very little! Even this little bit can fetch a lot of bliss. How many among us are sacrificing their lives for the sake of our society? All those who sacrifice their lives for the sake of their society are the blessed souls. "The Divine Attributes of a person cannot be matched by any material possessions or wealth. Sitting at the sea shore we are satisfied with a few conchs and shells. Likewise worldly men are satisfied with temporary benefits and happiness. Divine Attributes can be compared to the infinite wealth present in the ocean. This infinite wealth can be explored by only those who dive deep in the ocean. People with external vision will only limit to temporary happiness whereas those who opt an inward path will crave for permanent bliss. Thus they both differ in their vision. They will not accept each other. Both of them feel that they are correct. But who is actually right? The spiritual path which guides the man from external vision to inward path, solve this problem. Opting to a spiritual path is always a better choice for all.

This Earth is comprised of 5 Elements. Even the living objects are made of 5 Elements. All the resources belong to God. If man misuses these God given resources then he will be restless. So man must make proper use of them. Optimum usage of these resources will yield rich dividends for man. "The value of an object lies with the nature of the object", says Baba. In this world all worldly objects and living things retain their nature, except man. What a pity for man! He is devaluing himself. Realize what Baba says in this regard. "A realized soul will give top priority to the human birth and in the process gives least priority to all the worldly objects. On the other hand, a non realized person with external vision who has not realized the importance of human birth will give more importance to the worldly objects and in the process is devaluing himself".

"We must develop detachment towards worldly objects. We must buy only those objects which we need. But if we start possessing all worldly objects without realizing their need, then their prices will shoot up. This is not desired" says Baba.

Today in our Society, we have no clarity over our possessions, income and expenses. We are aware that the cost of all our daily needs will increase with time. During my childhood i.e. around 45 years back from now, the cost of 1 liter of toned milk is Rs1/liter, but it has been raised to Rs40/liter now. In the same way, the prices of other commodities have gone up. Very often we express anguish over the price rise. The 'Producer' expects a good price for his product and the 'Consumer' wants to possess it at a low price. Both are after all humans but they differ in their attitude. Why? One is a Seller and the other is a Buyer. As a consumer how can we overcome this price rise? If we control our

expenses based on our income and our needs then this problem will be taken care of. Generally we incur both wanted and unwanted expenses.

I was married when I was in my final year degree. At that time my income was Zero and my expenses were a Rupee. After some time, my income and expenses was a Rupee apiece. This continued for a long time. Thereafter my income was a Rupee and my expenses were 50paise. This means I am saving some amount from my income. Today my income is a Rupee and my expenses are 25paise. This means I am saving 75% of my income. With these savings what will happen to me if I spend some amount for the well being of the society? When I was a child, I heard that Tatas and Birlas used to spend 2%, and Sikhs spend 10% of their earnings for the welfare of the society. To sacrifice a part of our righteous earnings for the cause of the society is a noble act. "There is no happiness involved in getting and forgetting. There is a lot of bliss involved in giving and forgiving", says Baba. This is an important tip for detachment.

In this materialistic world, we may amass a lot of wealth, but one day we have to leave them all here. We cannot carry with us even a single penny with our dead body. Without practice man must not preach detachment for others. "Less luggage makes travel a pleasure". "God resides in a Kind Heart". We must practice these truths in real life.

Baba teaches "Ceiling on Desires" to the humanity. Through this Ceiling on Desires, Baba advises us to save and conserve Time, Energy, Money and the Resources and spend the savings thereby for the wellbeing of our society. In this way through detachment we optimize our lives. All the worldly men are averse to detachment. But all those men who follow an Inward Path will relish detachment in their lives.

## 15. MY PERSEVERANCE

God is a great Director. He knows the capabilities of the actors and their roles. After His Realization, I surrendered at His Feet to make me as His Tool. "Control the corruption in man" is the task assigned to me by God. Can I do justice to such a responsibility? God is Omnipotent. Nothing is impossible for Him. He is a supreme Director. He can easily implement this responsibility on His own. But there will be some souls like me, who surrender at His Feet to become Tools in His Hands. God obliges their request and hands them with such roles. Having surrendered at His Feet, He will guide me perfectly. I need not express my doubts at any moment. It is God who will guide me through. He knows how to direct me. With my perseverance, I never doubted Him.

This book contained two chapters. They are 1) Number Theory and 2) Divine Arithmetic. The base for these two chapters is 'My Perseverance'. It is this perseverance which is also responsible for those incidents which were expressed in Practical Spirituality. God has completed this task most confidentially through me. The contents of this book will have Universal Application. People from all walks of life may take some time to realize and accept the contents of this book. Two centuries ago, Charles Babbage has invented the Computer. But what is the present status of Computers? It has become a part of our daily life. What is my perseverance? Here I shall make a brief narration of it.

In February, 1982 I have completed my M Sc. For my M Sc, Dairy Chemistry, I must get a job in APDDCF. But immediately after my M Sc there were Union Strikes in APDDCF, apart from that there was 30% overstaff in APDDCF. As a result, even after union strikes, I waited for 18 months without a job. I have to accept the destiny in store for me. The timing of these union strikes was responsible for my non recruitment into APDDCF.

I am having the habit of daily reading 'The Hindu' newspaper from the age of 12. As such I am quite good in General Knowledge. Apart from this, I am quite fast in solving arithmetic sums. With these credentials, had I made attempts to prepare for competitive exams, I might have succeeded and secured a job. But I have not made any such efforts. Not making such efforts can be related to my fate or destiny.

At this time, a lecturer in Dairying, working in a Government College in Jammalamadugu has left the college just before the final year exams in April. My friend Mallikarjuna Reddy informed me of this vacancy. I left to Jammalamadugu without any delay and met the College Management. They told me that they have appointed a lecturer only the previous day. I returned back to Hyderabad.

During this time, through a paper advertisement, I have applied for a Lecturer post in Arts and Science College, Kamareddy. But a person with MV Sc qualification is working in this post for the past 2 years. This person with his two years experience will be made permanent. As such I have not attended the interview. He was appointed permanent lecturer. But the surprise thing is that he left this job within two months and joined PhD. My friend Mr. Jayaram Reddy, who is working here informed me of this vacancy and suggested me to meet the District Collector, who at the time of interviews, served as one of the panel member of the interview board. The Collector was a lady. I met the Collector and she promised to call me, but nothing materialized. If this lecturer who left for his PhD. has decided two months in advance for his PhD, then I would have got this lecturer job. At the time of submitting my application, I have personally met this lecturer also. At the time of interviews I don't

know if this gentleman has the idea of doing PhD. Even my friend Jayaram is unaware of his PhD. So here again, the job eluded me. This is again my fate or destiny.

Personality Development will find faults with a person for his failures. But I don't know if this principle works for me. In this way, 18 months passed away without a job. During this time, I have attended for a couple of interviews and performed very well and expected a positive result. But nothing materialized positively from their end. In 1983, November a few of our relatives were constructing a Rice Mill. I am confident of my abilities. They offered me to join their Rice Mill. I immediately accepted their offer. This means I am entering the business field and saying goodbye to jobs. Construction of the Rice Mill was handed over to me. The Rice Mill was constructed in 18 months i.e. by April, 1985. During the construction of the Rice Mill I have learned the finer aspects of construction which really helped me in the later stages of my life. During this time, assuming the Rice Industry as profitable, many Rice Mills have been newly constructed. The number of Rice Mills have increased, but the area of the Paddy fields remain constant. As a result our Rice Mill has no work for 6 months in a year. For milling we used to depend upon Rice Traders. In this context, I developed an idea to start my own Rice Trading. At that time, N.T.Rama Rao was the Chief Minister of the State. He introduced the Rs 2/kg Rice scheme. To fulfill the scheme, the Government machinery used to create all types of pressures to the Rice Traders. In this regard, they used to create many hurdles to release the permits of the Rice Traders. The Rice Traders of East Godavari has successfully overcome the pressures of the Official Machinery, whereas the Rice Traders of West Godavari has failed miserably in this regard. As a result, if the East Godavari Rice Traders enjoyed their business, the West Godavari Rice Millers faced the official harassment at every step. For the Rs 2/kg rice scheme, the State Government through the Civil Supplies procured full White Rice from fresh Paddy. To obtain full white Rice, the % of broken rice in white rice will increase. And again the % of broken rice has a control. So in each and every step, the West Godavari Rice Traders faced a lot of problems from Government Officials. In 1986, a 77kg paddy bag used to cost Rs 100/. 100 kgs of paddy yields 70% of Rice and Broken Rice, and the remaining 30% will be Husk and Bran. The Rice Traders have to pay 4% as marketing tax for the paddy procured. All the business done by the Rice Traders is recorded well. To be frank there is very little scope for the Rice Millers to commit fraud. Food Inspector, ACTO and other officers will make regular checks to check the rice stocks as maintained in the records. Even when the stocks are correct, they used to collect mamools (bribes) without fail. The Government Machinery took advantage from the Rs2/kg rice policy and harassed the rice traders at every step. The Government officials in FCI and PDS have fixed a price for every quintal of rice procured from the rice millers to pass the Rice for its quality. As per the fixed rate, the rice miller has to pay. The term 'Bribe' may not be relished by the Government Officials. So they changed the term to 'Mamool'. Mamool is an offering which is done happily. But here the rice millers used to pay these mamools with a lot of sad faces. Even for receiving payments for the dispatched rice, the officials have to be paid the fixed bribes. A small Rice Trader will be given a target of around 5000 quintals of Rice as levy to FCI. Half of this quantity must be given as levy to the State Government. For this levy given to the State and the Central Governments, 5000 quintals of Rice permits will be given for sale outside the state. In those days for every quintal of rice given as levy, the miller used to suffer a loss of Rs 20 – 25 per quintal. Two crops of paddy were cultivated per year. During the first crop, the Rice Millers used to fulfill their levy targets in order to avoid Government pressures. And during the second crop they used to utilize their permits. In this way, the rice trading was going on. During my first year of business, I was allotted a target of 6000 quintals for FCI and 3000 quintals for PDS. I have completed the target of fulfilling my given levy. To start rice trading, I have secured debts to a tune of Rs two lakhs. For supplying 9000 quintals of levy rice, these 2 lakhs were over. Even then there was no problem, I thought. There are many paddy agents who supply paddy to me and I will

have 10 – 15 days time to pay them back. But the most unwanted and unexpected event happened. In 1986 floods caused havoc to the West Godavari farmers. 90% of the crop has been damaged. This is the most severe floods in the last 100 years. The Rice Millers are forced to buy paddy from the neighboring Krishna District. To do this they must carry cash to buy paddy. In addition to this the Rice Millers in West Godavari are put to more troubles by the Government Officials. In order to utilize the permits in hand, they are forced to give levy for the next season, in advance. This is the order of the West Godavari Collector, Mr.P.K.Mohanty. Only if the permits in hand are utilized the traders will recover the losses they incurred for supplying the levy rice. They will recover Rs 25 – 30 per quintal of rice through permits. This means if the business is smooth, then the Rice Millers will stay in the border of no loss-no profit. But the crop in West Godavari is 90% damaged. Under the circumstances, instead of helping the Rice Millers to complete their permits, they are forced to give the levy for the next season well in advance to avail the available permits. This is simply an unrighteous act. During the first crop I utilized around 1000 quintals of my permits. I still had 5000 quintals of rice permits in my hand. Rice Trading is not at all encouraging especially in the West Godavari. I have decided to quit Rice Trading. There is no one to care for the well being of the Rice Traders. In 1986 half of the Rice Millers have called it a day.

The Rice Trading which I started in 1986, I have decided to quit in 1986 itself. In 1985, I have run the Rice Mill for one year, during which time I have gained enough knowledge to start Rice Trading. But the events in 1986 were very discouraging to the rice traders. I have 5000 quintals of rice permits in hand. When I have decided to quit, I must have the right to utilize the 5000 quintals. In this context, I went to meet the District collector twice. On the second occasion, I was given appointment at 9.00pm. Every day the Collector goes home after 6.00pm, play games and relaxes for some time, takes his dinner and will be back to his office again at 9.00pm. As per the appointment, Mr.P.K.Mohanty returned fresh and relaxed to the office at 9.00pm. The first sentence I occurred to Mohanty was “In my case, you can do justice, if you have courage”. He leisurely saw me and asked me to explain the matter. Briefly I have explained him my status and told him that I want to quit business in the same year and therefore requested him to avail my 5000 quintals of rice permits without giving levy for the next year. After hearing me, he said, “The rules will be applicable to all and that there will be no concessions to anyone”. He expressed these words in a firm and gentle way. On the external front my plea was not fulfilled, but in the inside of me I was satisfied with my effort. After failing in my attempt with the Collector, a senior Rice Trader advised me to try again with Mr.Aggarwal, IAS, The Civil Supplies Commissioner at Hyderabad. Only in the West Godavari, these rice permits are linked with the next year levy. So I went to Hyderabad and met Mr.Aggarwal to get permission to utilize my 5000 quintals of permits. I summed up my business proceedings to him. After hearing me, Mr.Mohanty calmly refused my request, but Mr.Aggarwal suggested me to commit suicide for the debts incurred in my business. An Officer has the right to refuse one’s request in his capacity but responding in this way is not proper in his path. I felt very bad with his response. Here again on the worldly plane I failed to succeed but I was satisfied within with my effort.

I have not ended up here. At that time A.V.S.Reddy, an IAS Officer has criticized the working of the Chief Minister Mr.N.T.Rama Rao and as a result he was suspended from duty. Mr.Reddy, after his suspension announced a party to fight corruption prevailing in our society. This was released in press. Thereafter the public has no news about this party. A few days after the formation of the party, I went to Hyderabad to meet Mr.Reddy at his home. I got down the bus at Punjagutta and walked a long distance in the sun and reached his home at 4.00pm. An attendant came out from the house and told me that Mr.Reddy was taking rest and that I cannot meet him. I told the attendant that I came all the way from West Godavari and that I will wait till he wake up from rest and

later meet him. This attendant went inside, came back and told me to come inside and sit in the front room. After entering the house, even before I could take a seat, Mr.Reddy fiercely shouted at me like a fierce dog. He was an ex-military man. For this unexpected predicament, I stood like an elephant . While he was shouting at me, I thought how this man with no patience and with so much of anger can control the corruption in the society? For his military treatment I remained calm and at peace. A little later he calmed down and asked me to sit. He asked my name. I told him, “My name is Vivekananda Reddy and having the qualities of Swami Vivekananda”. For the next 15 – 20 minutes he spoke to me with a lot of calm and concern. I shall express here three items of his talk. 1) It seems that for his house constructed in Hyderabad, for not bribing the Electrical Department, he was delayed the sanctioning of the Electrical Meter by one year. 2) The status of the politics is changing with time. In the past, people used to ask their leaders what they have done for their country. After some time the people have started asking their leaders what they have done for their state. In the same way, with the passage of time, they are asking their leaders what they have done to their districts and villages. But now the people are asking their leaders what they have done for them. This is the change of the electorate in India. 3) In order to control the corruption menace, everyone must claim responsibility. Everyone must advice, at least one person per day to be non corrupt. In a chain process, this chain will spread to all men in the society. In this way, the corruption can be controlled. He expressed this with hope that this chain process will be very effective. “Can the corruption be controlled by mere words?” I thought to myself. Taking leave from him I went to my home. After some time I heard that Mr Reddy has joined back his duty.

I have not yet given up my perseverance. Here in the Rice Industry, the Government Officials involved in FCI and the PDS are collecting bribes in a systematic way. The Government is paying them salaries. Then why are they collecting bribes? Almost all State Government employees are rampant in collecting bribes from the public. Is the ACB, The Politicians and the higher authorities unaware of this rampant corruption? Mr.Rajiv Gandhi at that time was the Prime Minister of India. He was called “Mr.Clean” by the people of India. I have written a letter describing the corruption prevailing in the Rice Industry and the Government Institutions, in general to Mr.Rajiv Gandhi. Not satisfied with this letter, I developed a strong feeling to meet Rajiv Gandhi personally and explain him of the corrupt practices prevailing in our society. In this context, I met Mr.Uma Shanker, the Indian Bank Manager, who was working in Gandhinagar, Vijayawada. When he was working in Poduru, West Godavari as Indian Bank Manager, I saw him working in a selfless and most efficient way. As a Manager, with a lot of patience and love, he used to fill up the challans and the withdrawal forms of the illiterate customers. I used to enjoy and relish his mode of working. He was later transferred from Poduru to Vijayawada. I went to Vijayawada and met him in his Bank. During Bank hours he was very busy. He could spare some time for me after 8.00pm. I freely expressed my thoughts and my purpose of visit. He could understand my concern for the wellbeing of the society. He told me that in our present day society a lot of highly qualified men, unable to bribe the corrupt politicians and the officials to get a job are turning into Naxalites and anti-social elements. And with regard to my meeting with Rajiv Gandhi, he suggested me that though Mr.Rajiv Gandhi is Mr.Clean, when the men surrounding Rajiv Gandhi are corrupt, then my meeting with Rajiv Gandhi will serve no purpose. I thought of meeting Uma Shanker and return back to Penugonda by evening or night. But it was already 8.30pm at Vijayawada. I came to Vijayawada on a Scooter. As it was 8.30pm, I asked Uma Shanker if I could stay that night at his house. He expressed sorry for his inability to accommodate me. I said no problem and took leave from him. I had no money to stay in hotel that night. So I started back home, that night. It was February, first week. The weather was very cold during night. By 10.00pm I have crossed the borders of Vijayawada. The cold was too severe for me. I could not travel anymore. Seeing a cement platform by the side of the NH Road, I tried to sleep on it. Two hours

passed but I had no sleep. The gushing of winds by the moving heavy vehicles was unbearable. At midnight, an old man going that way saw me and told me that there is a School nearby and that I can sleep in the School Verandah. He took me to the School and left. I had a good sleep on the floor of the Verandah. The next day morning a School Teacher who was working in this School came to the School, saw me and took me to his home and served breakfast to me. I conveyed thanks to God for sending me the old man who at that midnight hour has showed me the way to School Verandah, and to the School Teacher who took me to his home and served me food.

Taking leave from the Teacher, I left for Penugonda. By 9.00am I crossed the Railway Gate at Eluru and moved 1 km ahead. At this juncture, I have come across the most memorable event in my life. After passing 1 km away from the railway gate, I saw a 75 year old saintly person with ochre robes, white hair and white mustache. He has a walking stick in his hand. Seeing the moving vehicles on the road, he was swinging his stick towards them. If his intentions are for a lift, then he must come a step forward towards the vehicle and slowly swing his stick as if to request them to stop. But without moving towards the vehicle, he was swinging his stick very swiftly towards the vehicles. For this gesture, no vehicle stopped. For the onlookers, it appears as if he is mad. I have seen this old man, the previous night at the borders of Vijayawada. My Scooter lighting was very weak. The previous night I observed him as I came very close to him. I have lost a few heart beats for his stick movements at such a close range. In this way I realized him as the same old man. Now he is here. How come he reached this place? For his peculiar gestures, nobody will give him a lift. If that is the case, then how come he reached this place? Even if he walks the whole night he cannot reach this place. Then how come he is here? I thought he is not an ordinary person. Thinking on these lines, I have decided to give him lift on my Scooter and slowed down my vehicle as I reached near him. But to my utter surprise he was seeing the vehicles which are coming behind me and swinging his stick at them, instead of me. I stopped my vehicle after passing 10 yards from him and noticed him and the vehicles. Not a single vehicle took note of this old man. They all sped past him without noticing him. As there were no vehicles in the near vicinity, this old man again started walking ahead. As he came near me I asked him, if he wants lift on my Scooter? He told me that he has asked lift from many vehicles but not a single person has obliged him. He further added, "I will be travelling on Scooter for the first time". I then asked him where he wants to go. He replied "Manasa Sarover". Manasa Sarover is towards north of India. I told him that he is going in east direction, which is wrong. He told me that he is on a right track. I have given him a lift. The mode of his talking resembled Bhagawan Baba of Puttaparthi. Back on the Scooter, he asked me a couple of questions. For those questions, I can respond him with different replies on an external plane and on an internal plane. Unable to respond him on both planes, I asked him why he is showing interest in these trivial matters. From the moment I have given him lift I am feeling great. I am feeling as if I am present in Bhagawan Baba's Interview room. To extend this experience, I was riding very slowly. I took nearly two hours to reach Tadepalligudem. At Gudem, he got down from my Scooter. From the point, where I halted my Scooter, on the other side of the road there were two hotels. I stopped in the middle of these two hotels. I asked him if he will take meals. He responded me by saying that he has taken meals two days back and hence he will definitely have it. I tried to walk towards that hotel which is towards Eluru, from which direction we came. He instantly stopped me and said, "He only aims at moving ahead and never takes a back step". Saying these words, he directed me to that hotel which is towards TPGudem. In 1987, the price of the meals ticket was Rs10/-. I handed him the meals ticket and requested him to take meals and took leave from him. He raised both his hands at me and blessed me saying "God will take care of the well being of your family". The bliss I experienced for those two hours I cannot express in words. A few minutes after taking leave from him, I recollected two incidents of my past two trips to Eluru. I came twice to Eluru in order to meet the District collector. On both the trips,

during my return journey, I gave lift to two persons from the “same spot”. On one occasion I gave lift to a 20year youth and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion to a 30year old youth. Both of them were very weak and pale. After dropping them at TPgudem, I voluntarily offered them meals. They have not asked me food. For my offering, both of them gave me the same reply, 'I had no meals for the past 2 days. So definitely he will have it'. What is this strange coincidence? I have given lift to 3 persons on 3 different occasions strangely from the same spot. And strangely enough for the food offered, they gave me the same reply. Who are these three persons? Are they one and the same? If so, is He Bhagawan Baba of Puttaparthi? For me He is Baba.

As long as this Yogi sat on my Scooter, I felt as if He is Sathya Sai Baba Himself in Yogi Form. The two hours of drive on Scooter with this Yogi is a very special experience in my life. Feeling him strongly as Baba, I felt like stopping the Scooter once and offer Pranams at his Feet. But if I make such an effort, then he may vanish in thin air. With this fear I have not prostrated at his feet. While this internal struggle is going on, my foot touched his body. Even after this folly, I have not prostrated before him. I thought of prostrating before him at the time of taking leave from him. But at the time of departure, I have forgotten prostrating before him. As I was taking leave from this Yogi, this Yogi raised both his hands just like Baba and blessed my Family. I cherish these moments for my life. Along with these Blissful moments, I also suffered agony for not prostrating Him at least once during our journey. But my agony was subdued by my Indweller's response. “You are always following in His Footsteps. Why are you bothered so much for not prostrating before Him on physical plane?” With this response I calmed down. This Yogi blessed ‘My Family’. Here My Family means two entities. On an external plane it will be limited to my Family Members. But I have not made the above effort for the sake of my physical family. I have made this effort for the wellbeing and welfare of our society. Realizing that God will take care of the wellbeing of all and welfare of our Society, I returned to Bliss.

However highly a person may be qualified, however rich may be a person, however highly his official status may be, etc, if he is devoid of human values, then he will be considered a “Zero” says Baba. In this book, the two chapters, “Number Theory and the Divine Arithmetic” are written as a means to control corruption in our society. In the Number Theory, I have explained the phenomenon using the three numbers ‘1’, ‘0’ and ‘-1’. We all must live like ‘1’. Even though God is unseen, as per Divine Arithmetic I have expressed how God gets involved in our daily acts.

As measures of tackling corruption, I have not revealed the above incidents to anybody so far. I have not revealed the dialogue between me and Mr. Aggarwal, the Civil Supplies Commissioner to anybody. For my visit of meeting Mr. Uma Shanker at Vijayawada, I have not revealed my intentions to anybody that my meeting with him is to make way to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the ‘Mr. Clean’ Prime Minister of India. None of my family members know my meeting with Mr. A.V.S. Reddy. All my efforts are known only to God. In such a confidential way He directed and guided me through in this task.

During Rama's time, Rama was away from his Kingdom for 14 years. During Paandavas exile they were away from their Kingdom for 13 years. My exile started immediately after my M Sc. None of my job trials were successful. I have failed in my business also. I have entered into business without having my own cash. For the construction of the Rice Mill, I have claimed debts to a tune of rupees one lakh and for starting Rice Trading, I have collected another two lakhs as loans. For these loans interest will be added to the principal amount. In order to clear these loans, I have sold 4 ½ acres of our joint property at Ravulapalem, at the rate of Rs 80,000/acre.

During Rama's exile Rama lost his Kingdom for 14 years. What did he achieve for this effort? He killed Ravana and other demons during this period. What Rama has achieved cannot be matched by any material possessions or wealth? He will be remembered for Eternity for His noble acts. In the same way, Paandavas lost their Kingdom for 13 years. What have they achieved? During the Mahabharatha war, they have triumphed over the unrighteous Kauravaas and became famous. Harishchandra following Truth has lost his Kingdom and his family members. What did he achieve? He achieved the title 'Truth' before his name and cherished in the annals of history. And coming to my case, what I have lost for my exile? I have lost 4 ½ acres of land. What have I achieved? I have become a part and parcel in the construction and in the maintenance of 'Astadhala Seva Pushpam' which is God's infinite showering of Grace and Blessings. The Bliss involved in this act cannot be matched.

I have compared my exile along with Rama's exile and along with Paandavas exile. Do I have the required credentials for this comparison? Until I penned it in this book, I have never thought of my incidents in life in this new line of thought. But I have expressed the events that way in this book. To be frank, physically I will be writing this book, but the real source is my Indweller. In this context, these incidents are expressed as my exile. During my exile (my perseverance) I have utilized all my 18 Divine Attributes.

What is the need for me to express my personal events as my exile in guise? In the past Rama went to FOREST for 14 years. Who will live in the Forest? In a Forest, beasts (animals), demons and saintly persons will be living. What has Rama done during this 14 years exile in a forest? He has killed the demons. During Rama's time who used to live in villages and towns? Only men with human values used to live in villages and towns.

As time passed on there have been many changes taking place in our society. In the past our towns and villages which have been occupied by men with human values have been changed into "MAN FORESTS". This means our present day society is contaminated with men with demonic and animal tendencies. In the good old days the demons lived in forests and survived for their living on beasts. Why Rama has killed only demons while he was in the forest? Why has he not harmed the animals? Demons with their intellect can lead a human life, but they utilized their intellect only to harm others. So Rama killed them.

"An animal is frightened. A demon frightens. A human is neither frightened by others nor frighten others" says Baba. So in the present day 'Man Forests', we see men with animal qualities who are frightened, men with demonic qualities who frighten others and men with human values who are neither frightened nor frighten others. In our present day society men with demonic qualities are frightening others but men with animal qualities are becoming an easy prey to these demons. These demonic men will not relish the humans who are not afraid.

Men with human values are not afraid by anybody but their status in the present day society has become very precarious. Why? Men with animal qualities and demonic qualities are at the helm of affairs in our society as politicians and as administrators. With their qualities they show least concern towards men with the human values.

"Men with animal tendencies will be selfish in nature, but they will not do any harm on their own to others. But if somebody approaches them and prevents their selfish acts then they will not hesitate to harm those individuals who have done good to them. And then there will be men with demonic qualities who deliberately harm others. Others need not interfere in their acts, but they

interfere in others activities and harm others. And then there will be men with human tendencies, who with their human values will be ready to serve others in the society”. This message of Baba serves as a mirror image of the different patterns of men living in our society. This message helps one and all not only to rectify their status but also cautions while dealing with men in the society.

Men with animal tendencies are ignorant and afraid of demonic qualities. But they are least concerned or bothered by men with human qualities. And we have demonic men with their selfish motives who cash the weaknesses of men with animal tendencies and maintain friendship with men with human qualities.

Our society at present resembles a ‘Man Forest’. Born as humans, we must live with human values. Baba States that in our society men are living in four different ways. They are men with animal tendencies, demonic qualities, human behavior and with the Divine Attributes. Man must follow human values and lead a human behavior. Man must follow human values under all odds to promote himself with the Divine Attributes. “Being born as humans, man must not corrupt himself with animal and demonic qualities”. Man must leave these corrupt practices for his self progress. Bribing is corruption but limited to monetary affairs.

Why in our society, we see different patterns of men? If a part of the society is expressing men with human and divine attributes, then there are others who are expressing animal and demonic qualities. If we study their life patterns we will understand the cause for these differences. All those men who follow their ancient Traditions and Customs will progress in their lives with human values and divine attributes. And those men who deny and neglect their ancient Traditions and Customs will develop animal and demonic qualities. There is a saying which states that all those who follow their Traditions and Customs, by default will progress in their lives. How they achieve this progress? They will lead a life free from animal and demonic tendencies. It is this ‘Knowledge’ which differentiates these men in four states.

Men with knowledge are indeed blessed. But what can be said about the ignorant. Baba stated, “Ignorance is a curse. Ignorance is a burden. Ignorance is darkness in guise. Ignorance is suffering”. Stating this, Baba has shown Humanity a spiritual path to drive out this ignorance. God will guide his devotees with a spiritual path, and never with a devotional path. He stated that ignorance is not driven out by devotional acts. He advised that ignorance will be driven out only by the unity of thought, word and deed. How is this unity? The thought process of the mind, the message conveyed by the word and the action in deed will be an integrated affair. This unity will lead to efficiency. This efficiency will lead to Yogam (Glory). This glory will lead to equanimity which will have Universal Acceptance says Baba.

There is a slogan in Telugu which states that a man needs a Word, whereas an animal needs a Stick – to change for the better. For the present day ‘Man Forest’ this slogan will perfectly serve the society. Men with human values need just words to follow a right track whereas men with animal qualities as they neglect the good council need a stick (punishment). This slogan has not covered the men with demonic qualities. Demonic men will have good and bad discrimination; as such they need a warning to follow a right track. So if we make a small change to this slogan, it will perfectly take care of all men in our society. With this change, the slogan will become “A Word for Humans, a Warning for Demons and a Punishment for the Beasts”. In our society, we all feel that the Government machinery is handling the administration in these lines only. But in reality it is not implemented.

Today the men involved in Government Service are meant to serve the people. They are paid good salaries for their services. In this context, collecting bribes from public is a crime. But the Government claims all those men involved in bribes i.e. all those men who offer bribes and all those men who collect bribes as offenders. All those men who collect bribes are definitely offenders but can all those men who offer bribes be considered as offenders? Example1: Today some X is constructing a new house. He will apply an application for a Current Meter for his new house. Is the Meter being allotted to him without being bribed at some level or other? In this context, can all those men who construct a new house be referred as offenders? In any society a normal person wishes to get the work done without offering bribes. Example2: Some person wants to start a new enterprise. To start a new enterprise, permissions must be granted. The Government Machinery which is supposed to encourage these new entrepreneurs, are collecting bribes in issuing permits to them. So in this context, can we refer all those new entrepreneurs as offenders?

How the present day Government Officers are workingz? The Government Machinery holds the whip (power). They can use the whip in three ways. They are 1) Good words for beginners, 2) a warning for rule breakers and 3) punishment for offenders of rules and crime committers. The above two examples they can achieve with good council, good words with love. But the officers who never miss an opportunity to collect bribes is a serious problem (serious crime) in our present day Society. Then we have the public with demonic qualities. They have a lot of knowledge. They know what is good and what is bad. These demonic men for their selfish purpose are breaking rules. How these men must be dealt for breaking laws? They must be served a warning. These demonic men are men of desires. A sincere warning will put them on right track. But what the Government officials are doing? The Government officials are taking advantage of the situation and collecting bribes from the demonic public. Unable to control the Demonic men, they are collecting 'Mamools' from one and all. Here the Government machinery is 'misusing' its powers instead of targeting the Demonic men. Next we have the public with animal tendencies. These men with animal tendencies though they live in a society, are very selfish in nature. They never care for others welfare. These men with selfish motives will not obey the rules (Good Words). They neglect the rules. These men with animal tendencies in most cases will be set right with a sincere warning. But then there will be some men with animal tendencies who will not heed a warning. They will cross limits and commit crimes with selfish purposes. They can be easily booked by the officials. But here again the officials will take advantage of the situation. Instead of punishing them, they collect bribes from them. Here the Government Machinery is marked for its 'Inefficiency'.

And now let us focus our attention on the Rules. How are these Rules? Are these rules have practical applicability in real sense? Everyone with a broad mind must analyze these rules. The Government Officials are framing rules which have very less practicability. With these rules even a righteous person is standing before the Government Machinery as an offender. In other words, by framing such rules the Government Machinery is converting the entire public as offenders of the rules.

What is the motive behind for framing such rules? The Government Machinery wants 100% efficiency and hence with this motive they are forming these rules. But is it possible for everyone to achieve 100% efficiency in their work? In our society men vary in their energies. They achieve different results. To be frank, even the Government Officials who formed the rules will fail to implement these rules in reality. In order to understand the intensity of the situation let us see a practical example. Example: Children go to a School. In a class with 40 – 50 students there will be only one student who will get first rank ( say 100% efficiency). What about the rest? They have failed to achieve 100% marks (efficiency). For this reason are the students removed from class or punished

for non achieving 100% efficiency. No. Class first is obtained by only one student. Let us consider the students progress in terms of Grades. How many students are getting A Grade? How many are getting lesser grades. For not studying well are these students dismissed from school? No. They are supposed to grasp knowledge. So they are encouraged by the teachers and the parents and pursued in their studies till they get a degree at least. All the meritorious students will get jobs in Government and Public Sectors. What about the rest who are not efficient in their studies? After all they all are humans and are a part of our society and they have to seek a righteous mode to seek a living. So the present set of rules must be liberalized marginally by 5 – 10% on humanitarian grounds.

Let us see the other side of the same coin. The Government machinery is describing these rules for the common man or Public Sector. But they are not implementing the same rules for the Government Sector. Example: Just a few years back, the Government has passed a resolution that all public sector institutions must obtain a fire certificate. The existing buildings are constructed a long back and it is not possible to make the necessary changes as per the rules prescribed. After prescribing these rules, the fire department personnel are visiting these public sector institutions every year and collecting their mamools (bribes). The same rules are not implemented for Government Sector. Why this biasedness? The purpose of this fire certificate is for public safety. Are men involved in Government Sector different from Public Sector, when it matters to public safety? This biasedness shows the inefficiency of the Government which passes such rules and promotes corruption in our society.

The rules are formulated to aim 100% efficiency. So far so good. But how many can achieve 100% efficiency? Very few. But when the conditions are not favorable, even the efficient men will fail miserably to achieve 100%. Example: 30 years back when I was in the Rice Industry a dry bag of Paddy yields 70% of Rice and Broken Rice, and the remaining 30% constitutes Bran and Husk. As per the records, the Rice Miller must show 70% yielding. If the yielding is less than 70% means the Rice Millers have violated the rules. Let us analyze the problems faced by the farmers and the rice millers every year. Exactly at the time of the harvest of paddy, rains will come. As a result, the paddy will become wet. This wet paddy will not yield 70% yielding. Apart from this, the rice inside this wet paddy will change its color into yellow or light brown. Even a common man does not show interest to buy this colored rice. Owing to the rules and public dislike, the rice millers will not come forward to buy this wet paddy. But some rice millers come forward to buy this wet paddy for a little reduced price owing to the decrease in yielding and the public dislike of the colored rice. But the farmers without realizing the rice miller's problems will develop hatred towards the rice millers. Under the circumstances, the Government officials can relax the rules to help both the rice millers and the farmers. But they will never do so. This problem is faced every year, but the rules are not relaxed. The rules which aim at 100% efficiency must be relaxed marginally by 5 – 10% in all walks of life. With this 5 – 10% relaxation of rules, the percent of offenders of rules will almost come to zero.

A blade of grass spread vast areas very fast. Similarly the corruption is spreading vast areas. But how strong is a blade of grass? Very weak. If the nourishment to the blade of grass is prevented, then it will dry and die. Similarly controlling corruption in our society is not an impossible task. But everybody feels that corruption has spread vast areas and that it is impossible to control. This is not true. Relax the prevailing rules by 5 – 10 % marginally on humanity grounds and see the results for yourself.

The efficiency of the Government Machinery will be realized by the public only when the rules are accessible to one and all. All the politicians, leaving aside their politics must come forward

to relax these rules by 5 – 10%. This is the need of the hour for the wellbeing of the public and the welfare of the society.

I shall narrate here the equanimity status of two men in their duties. They are Mr.Ganga Rao and Mr.Sanyasi Naidu. Mr.Ganga Rao worked as an Accounts Officer, in APSEB, Kothapeta, East Godavari. I was very much impressed by his services. Seeing his work I told him “You are enjoying glory in your duty”. Our relationship is soul-borne. When I expressed my happiness, he narrated a few incidents about his job career. He told me that he was always sincere towards his duty. He was never corrupt. He is aware of all the rules. With this awareness towards the rules, he even bailed out his senior officials of the department on many occasions. On one occasion his senior officers had forced him to process a work which is against the rules prescribed. So he denied their request. For denying them, he faced the wrath of the senior officers, who suspended him from duty. Two senior officers visited him to investigate his case of suspension. During this enquiry they realized his sincerity and immediately dismissed the suspension orders. With this incident he became more popular in his department in terms of efficiency and sincerity.

Mr.Sanyasi Naidu, retired as Panchayat Extension Officer. Even he enjoyed the glory in his duty. He is very familiar with all the Panchayat Rules. He is one of those few men in the State, who is aware of all the Panchayat rules. He was always sincere in his job. With his knowledge he helped many persons in his department with advice in their duties. With this background Mr.Sanyasi Naidu, went to Rajahmundry, to see Bhagawan Baba for the first time. Baba stood in front of Naidu and seeing him, stated ‘Duty is God’ and moved away. How come Baba knows about my inner self? He is Omniscient. He is God in human form. From that very moment, he became a devotee of Baba and has done excellent service in the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisations till his last breath. Let us recall a couple of incidents in Mr.Naidu’s career. Mr.Vakul Raju served as the Sarpanch of Ravulapalem, East Godavari for a span of 20 years. Mr.Raju is well known for his sincerity and administrative capabilities. With his capabilities he contributed for the development of Ravulapalem. Mr.Vakul Raju used to maintain a good rapport with Mr.Naidu, who then worked as Ravulapalem Panchayat Executive Officer. But on one occasion, Mr.Vakul Raju’s proposal was denied by Mr.Naidu owing to non permission of rules. For this denial, Mr.Vakul Raju got Mr.Naidu transferred to some other place, but very soon realized that the man who replaced Mr.Naidu was not as efficient as Mr.Naidu. Rectifying his mistake, Mr.Vakul Raju got Mr.Naidu back to Ravulapalem. In another incident, a Contractor without completing the work has stated that he has completed the allotted work and claimed Mr.Naidu to pass his bill. Mr.Naidu knowing the status of the work, denied the Contractor to pass the bill. For denying passing the bill, the Contractor threatened Mr.Naidu with life. Keeping aside the threats, Mr.Naidu told the Contractor, “The time left to complete the work is very little. If you cannot complete the work in time, then you have to find measures to save yourself from punishment”. With this suggestion the Contractor has realized the seriousness of the situation and completed the work in time to save himself from punishment.

The efficient men in their respective departments can easily set right the inefficiencies prevailing in their respective departments.

Having been born as humans, Baba advises and guides all men to achieve glory in their duties. Being born as humans everyone shows interest in Liberation. Baba explained the different modes of Liberation. “Liberation is an easy process. A mind full of positive thoughts and devoid of bad thoughts is Liberation. Overcoming worldly attractions is Liberation. Overcoming all worldly attachments is Liberation. Realising the Truth that “I am not this body” is Liberation. The Sanskrit word ‘Swetcha’ is comprised of ‘swa’ and ‘itcha’. Here ‘swa’ means Soul and ‘itcha’ means liking.

He who is attracted by his Soul enjoys Liberation. As per Bhagawad Gita, getting involved in action, without anticipating for fruits is Liberation. School Teachers need not do any Spiritual Rituals. If they guide 100 children into a good path, then they will attain Liberation. Without showing concern for the salary, all those soldiers who with their love for their Motherland sacrifice their lives for the sake of their country will attain Liberation". In this way Baba suggested many suggestions to the humanity to attain Liberation.

Men with human values and divine attributes will always adopt a spiritual path, which is comprised of 6 characteristics. One of these 6 characteristics is Devotion. But all those men with animal and demonic tendencies with their ignorance are being limited to Devotion for their spiritual progress. Human life will attain its perfection and goals only with a spiritual path. It will not achieve its goals with devotion. Everyone must realize this truth.

## 16. NUMBER THEORY

God resides in all of us as an Indweller. We all enjoy His Presence. But how many among us are following His advice? Those who follow our Indweller will progress spiritually, and those who don't follow Him will waste their human birth.

God's philosophy is Infinite. In this Infinity, we cannot differentiate between good and bad, opening and closing, starting point and ending point, ups and downs, etc. God's love is complete in all respects. In this Infinity, man must understand this Divine Love. "Love is Selflessness. Self is Lovelessness", says Baba. The Bliss we enjoy from this Divine Love has no substitution. But man is not making any effort to reach this Infinite state of Divine Love. On the other hand, he is confined to his limited state. In this limited state, he will differentiate between good and bad, ups and downs, beginning and ending, etc. In this materialistic world, if we address Good persons as "Good", we don't face any problems, but if we call bad behavior persons as "Bad", then we cannot withstand their onslaught. This is a Fact. But the spiritual value states that we must never hurt anybody while speaking the Truth.

**HATE SIN BUT NOT THE SINNER:** All loving people will share their Love with everyone around. They never hate anybody. They treat everybody as the embodiments of the Divine Soul. These loving men hate sin, but not the sinner. They separate sin from the sinner, and with their infinite love will transform them into good individuals. When the impurities in man are left out, then the Divinity in man will reflect. So man must lead an ideal life and love his fellow beings. With Loving care we can win over everybody. Evil cannot triumph over evil, says Baba. So, when we opt to serve man sincerely, then God will really give us an opportunity to serve.

In this way, in order to reduce the sin in man, this "Number Theory" is a Divine Blessing for me. God blessed me with this Number Theory in 1987-88. The present narration is taken out from that book. I shall give a brief summary of the Number Theory here.

$$1*1=1$$

With one digit we cannot perform any arithmetic. We need two digits to perform a sum. In this sum one digit is man and the other digit is God.

This entire Universe is God's property. All the resources that are available at man's disposal belongs to God. For having been born as a human, God is giving an opportunity to utilize these resources. As the resources belong to God, even the fruits are at the Divine disposal. Man is not realizing this simple truth. It is here the Divine Drama unfolds as a game between God and man. It is here that man gets disillusioned. It is here that man's problems start. Man is misjudging God given resources as his personal resources and wants to gain control over them.

We know four types of Arithmetic sums. They are Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. This Number Theory will make use of `Multiplication` only. The other types of Arithmetic will not come into play. Based on the `Results`, this number theory is explained. Each sum involves only two numbers. So the result depends on the value of these two numbers. Of these two numbers, one number belongs to man, while the second number is Divine. God's number will always carry a value of more than `Zero`. But the value of man can be any of the three values. It can be `1`, `0` or `-1`. This value of man is based on his behavior. Satwik behavior will have a value of `1`. Rajasik behavior will have a value of `0`. Tamasik behavior will have a value of `-1`.

This Number Theory involves Multiplication in four levels. They are 1.Individual level, 2.Family level, 3.Official level and 4.Leadership level.

At an Individual level, the Arithmetic is just limited to each person. Here the Divine Number is assigned `1`. Man is Singular but God is a Plural entity. So His value increases depending upon the level. In the Family level everyman shows interest towards his family members, friends and relatives. So at this level let us give the value `10` to the Divine Number. This means the decisions taken by man at a family level will have an impact on tens of people.

The third level is the Official level. All those men who are working as Government servants will have a chance to serve hundreds of people. So here the Divine Number will have a value of `100`. Here the decisions taken at the official level will effect 100 times.

The fourth level is Leadership level. As a leader he will have thousands of followers. So the Divine Number will have a value of `1000` or more. So their decisions will carry a value multiple of 1000.

With time and experience, the Official status of a person increases. Likewise the status of Leadership grows. So in this way as the level grows, the value of the Divine Number too grows. We shall analyse how this number grows. We have a village head. A small village may have 1000 population, and a big village may have 10,000. We will go one more step. From the village level, we will go to the Assembly level. Let us assume the population of the Assembly be around 1 Lakh. And we go one more step further to the Parliament level, where the population is estimated to be around 10 Lakhs. This brief explanation helps us clarify how the availability of God given resources increase for each rise in level.

Let`s analyse what the results show with the 3 categories of men.

**ARITHMETIC INVOLVING `1`:** Here the value of man is `1`, i.e., a positive value.

$1 * 1 = 1 \rightarrow$	at an Individual level
$1 * 10 = 10 \rightarrow$	at a Family level
$1 * 100 = 100 \rightarrow$	at an Official level
$1 * 1000 = 1000 \rightarrow$	Leadership at a small village level
$1 * 10,000 = 10,000 \rightarrow$	Leadership at a big village level
$1 * 1,00,000 = 1,00,000 \rightarrow$	Leadership at Assembly level
$1 * 10,00,000 = 10,00,000 \rightarrow$	Leadership at a Parliament level

In all the above sums the result is always more than zero. These results show development. Our available resources have been put to optimum use.

**ARITHMETIC INVOLVING `0`'s:** Here the value of man is `0`. This is the Rajasik State.

$0 * 1 = 0 \rightarrow$	at an Individual level
$0 * 10 = 0 \rightarrow$	at a Family level

- $0 * 100 = 0 \rightarrow$  at an Official level
- $0 * 1000 = 0 \rightarrow$  Leadership at a small village level
- $0 * 10,000 = 0 \rightarrow$  Leadership at a big village level
- $0 * 1,00,000 = 0 \rightarrow$  Leadership at an Assembly level
- $0 * 10,00,000 = 0 \rightarrow$  Leadership at a Parliament level

In all these levels the net result is zero. This means these individuals are not in a position to utilize their God given resources properly. Development is not possible with such men or women.

**ARITHMETIC INVOLVING  $-1$ :** Here the value of man is  $-1$ , i.e., a negative value. This is the Tamasik state.

- $-1 * 1 = -1 \rightarrow$  at an Individual level
- $-1 * 10 = -10 \rightarrow$  at a Family level
- $-1 * 100 = -100 \rightarrow$  at an Official level
- $-1 * 1000 = -1000 \rightarrow$  Leadership at a small village level
- $-1 * 10,000 = -10,000 \rightarrow$  Leadership at a big village level
- $-1 * 1,00,000 = -1,00,000 \rightarrow$  Leadership at Assembly level
- $-1 * 10,00,000 = -10,00,000 \rightarrow$  Leadership at a Parliament level

In all these sums the end result is less than zero. This infers that these men who have no knowledge about the God given resources are misusing them. With their decisions, instead of Development, they will do much damage to the Society.

**ANALYSIS:** When we analyse the above three types of men, what can we infer? When the human value is  $1$ , the end result is always above zero. This shows Development. When the human value is  $0$ , the net result is equal to zero, which shows drainage of God given resources. When the human value is  $-1$ , the net result is always less than zero. Here the God given resources are misused.

God's resources are same for one and all. But the Development process depends on the human value. When we see Development in a Society, we can infer that the men involved have utilized the God given resources to an optimum usage. When there is no Development in the Society, we can infer that the men involved here have either drained away or misused the God given resources.

In this context, the value of man gains significance. When the value of man is  $1$ , it enables Development, Progress, Glory, Prosperity and paves way for improved living conditions and safety for man in the Society. But if the value of man is either  $0$  or  $-1$ , then instead of Development, a lot of damage is done to the Society by the misuse of God given resources.

We all live in a Society. Man is a Social Being. In a Society man cannot live in isolation. Man being part of the Society, we all must show concern at his behavior, i.e. his value. We all must make efforts to see that all men in our Society always remain  $1$ . In our Society, we gain nothing from  $0$ 's and  $-1$ 's. In our Society nobody relishes and entertains  $0$ 's and  $-1$ 's. This does not mean we can

separate `0`s and `-1`s from the Society. They are a part of our society and they will continue to do so. So with love we must transform the `0`s and `-1`s into `1`s. Is it possible? If there is a will, there will be a way. The next chapter “Divine Arithmetic” will show some light on these aspects to achieve this goal.

## 17. THE DIVINE ARITHMETIC

$1 + 1 + 1 = 111$ : Bhagawan Baba on one occasion in His message has briefed about His Number Theory. “In our physical world  $1+1+1=3$ , but as per Divine Arithmetic  $1+1+1$  becomes 111”, was Baba’s message. At that point of time, I felt Baba has expressed the significance of Unity in this way. I felt very happy for this message.

Today is 14-2-2014. My Heart was full of Bliss. I shall narrate the reason for my Bliss. My Number Theory - explained earlier in this book - has close resemblance with the Divine Arithmetic.

$$1 * 10 = 10$$

$$1 * 100 = 100$$

$$1 * 1000 = 1000$$

$$1 * 10,000 = 10,000$$

$$1 * 1,00,000 = 1,00,000 \text{ and so on } \dots$$

In my Number Theory, it contained two numbers for each sum. One number is the human value and the second number is related to the Divine Number. When I wrote my Number Theory in 1987-88, I have no idea about this Divine Arithmetic. As per the Divine Arithmetic,

$$1+1=11$$

$$1+1+1= 111$$

$$1+1+1+1= 1111 \dots \text{and so on.}$$

On observation, there is a very close relationship between my Number Theory and the Divine Arithmetic. In fact, the differences are negligible. This is one of the reasons for my Ecstasy. Another reason for my Ecstasy is that I could grasp some knowledge from within regarding  $1+1+1=111$ . I have just received this information from within - without my asking. My joy knew no bounds for this information. I shall narrate this Divine Arithmetic  $1+1+1=111$  based on my Spirituality and experiences.

Bhagawan Baba in His message has referred this sum  $1+1+1=111$ . Let me take this sum as reference to explain the concept behind the Divine Arithmetic. In our physical world  $1+1+1$  becomes 3. In the sum  $1+1+1=3$  we have 3 numbers. So let’s divide this number 111 by 3. We get 37. So the value of each man becomes 37. If we separate this number into Human number and the Divine number it will take this form  $1+36$ . In this sum ‘1’ is the Human Value and ‘36’ is the Divine Value.

God is Just. God created all men as equals. All the natural resources belong to God. In this world, if the value of man is ‘1’, then the value of the Divine Number will be ‘36’. Throughout our life we must always remember the values of these two numbers – The Human Number and the Divine Number.

This Universe belongs to our God. God will have a total control over His resources. Lord Krishna has focused this message to the Humanity through His Bhagawad Gita. But man is not taking this message into his heart.

**God's Internal and External Resources for Man:** The value of man must always remain as '1' throughout his life. As long as we follow and practice Good, this value will remain '1'. We have given the value '36' to the Divine Number. God's resources are available to man in two forms. They are Internal and External Resources. The value of the Internal Resources of God in man is 18 and that of the External Resources is 18.

What are God's Internal Resources? They are the 18 Divine qualities in man, which have been mentioned in this book. Let us recollect again. For practicing the 5 Human Values, man will realize the 18 Divine qualities in him. For always following 'Truth', man realizes four Divine qualities such as Fearlessness, Courage, Humility and Detachment. For always practising Righteousness, man is blessed with Duty, Sense Control, Discipline, Patience and Perseverance. For always aiming for Peace, man is conferred with Contentment, Cheerfulness and Equanimity. For Expressing Love, man realizes Kindness, Forgiveness, Service and Sacrifice in him. And for aspiring Non-Violence man is blessed with Compassion and Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man. Who can explain the Spiritual Status of such a person who is enjoying all these 18 Divine qualities? For being blessed with these 18 Divine qualities, man will be ever Grateful to the Lord.

What are God's External Resources? They are the five Sense Organs, the five Action Organs and the eight types of Wealth. Eyes, Ears, Nose, Tongue and the Skin form the five Sense Organs. Hands, Legs, Throat, Genital Organs and Organs of Excreta form the five Action Organs. And the eight types of Wealth a man possess are the power of Sound(Hearing), Movement, power of Sight(Eyes), the power to Speak, the power of Bliss, the power to overcome Delusion, the power to Realise the Divinity and the integral power of all this wealth. All these comprise the External 18 Resources in man. Bhagawan Baba has suggested that man must control his tongue in order to enjoy the eight types of wealth.

Man must begin his Spirituality with God given 18 External Resources. Only when these 18 External Resources are put to proper use, man will start his Inward journey to realize the 18 Divine qualities in him. The Bliss one enjoys from these 18 Divine qualities cannot be substituted with the entire wealth of the world.

God wanted to establish this Truth to the entire Humanity. The value of the External and Internal resources of God cannot be estimated. Those who utilized and experienced these resources only can realize the significance of these resources. The rest of the Humanity is ignorant of the God given resources. In order to make the Humanity realize the importance of these God given Internal Resources, God has tested a few selected individuals. Now I shall narrate here about King Harish Chandra, Incarnate Rama and the Righteousness personified five Pandavaas.

**Satya Harish Chandra:** Satya Harish Chandra was a Noble Emperor. He followed the five Human Values and manifested the 18 Divine qualities within him. God tested Harish Chandra in the form of Sage Viswamitra. As an Emperor, Harish Chandra has abundant physical resources at his disposal. But to keep up his promise made to sage Viswamitra, he not only lost his Kingdom but faced a lot of hardships. He got distanced to his wife and his son. Even though an Emperor, when things are not going his way, with his human values he has faced all the odds in a noble way. He was appointed as a caretaker of a Graveyard. As a caretaker of the Graveyard, he has to collect the tax from those who

perform the last rites of their dead kith and the kin. Harish Chandra's son Lohitasura who was killed by a snake bite was brought to the same graveyard by his mother Chandramathi. Not realizing the lady and the body, Harish Chandra demanded tax from the lady to perform the last rites of the boy. She was alone and claimed her helplessness to pay the tax, for which Harish Chandra bluntly refused the lady to perform the last rites of her son. At this point of time, sage Viswamitra appeared before Harish Chandra and accepted His Truthfulness. From that moment, Emperor Harish Chandra has become 'Satya Harish Chandra'. Satya Harish Chandra got back his wife, dead son alive and his Kingdom.

Satya Harish Chandra was an Emperor. He has abundant wealth at his disposal. But with his good behavior, he has manifested all the Internal Divine qualities in him. He was tested for his integrity. He faced many severe odds. At no time, he went back on his word. In the end, he won over all the odds with his truthfulness. The story of Harish Chandra has inspired many great souls. One among them was Mahatma Gandhi, who followed Truth and with his 18 Divine qualities has written his Autobiography, "My Experiments with Truth".

**Ramas's Ideal:** Dasaratha announced the Coronation ceremony of Sri Rama to the throne of Ayodhya. In the early hours of the following day, Rama is supposed to become the Emperor. But Kaikeyi's boons had sent Sri Rama to the exile for 14 years. As an obedient son Rama went to the forest happily. Rama was least worried about the last minute changes that send him to the forest. Rama who stands as a symbol of Righteousness has all the 18 Divine qualities in him. With his 18 Divine qualities Rama was least bothered about his Princely status and luxuries. Only Rama was supposed to leave the Palace to the forest. But Sita and Lakshmana too followed Rama to the forest leaving aside all the royal comforts. This shows that they too had not lagged behind Rama in their Divine qualities. In fact, all the people of Ayodhya followed Rama. They have decided to stay with Rama in the forest. They followed Rama. But Rama somehow managed to leave them behind and left to the forest. Rama's brother Bharatha, who after returning to the Kingdom, came to know about Rama's exile, has made a sincere effort to bring back Rama to the throne. Even Bharatha never lagged behind Rama in his Divine qualities. Bharatha wore a saintly garb and spent self imposed exile in Nandigram for 14 years. Last but not least, the youngest brother, Shatrughna looked after the Kingdom of Ayodhya in a selfless way. Thus all the Brothers, Sita and the people of Rama, who possessed the Divine qualities, never craved for the royal comforts. They all possessed these 18 Divine qualities. Rama Raajya signifies these 18 Divine qualities in the people.

Today's circumstances are different. Sri Rama advised man to earn Righteousness. But today, man instead of earning Righteousness is running after money, wealth and physical comforts. The earnings of man can be considered into 4 types. They are Righteousness, Wealth, Desires and Liberation (Dharma, Artha, Kaama and Moksha). We must stick to Righteousness under all circumstances. If we do that, then the other three will follow suit. While explaining Ramayana, Bhagawan Baba has warned that today's man is more interested in wealth than in earning Righteousness. Today's man is neglecting Righteousness and earning wealth and thereby is fulfilling his desires. But by neglecting Righteousness, man is losing Liberation, warns Baba. If man realizes the importance of his human birth, then he will adhere to Righteousness and earns Liberation, says Baba, as Rama's message. So man is just supposed to adhere to Righteousness under all odds to possess these 18 Divine qualities and thereby attain Liberation.

**Paandavas led a Righteous Life:** Under the noble guidance of Mother Kunthi, all the five Pandavaas have grown up big with unity and good qualities. Kauravaas father was Dhritharaastra. Dhritharaastra means he who is interested in others possessions. Under the guidance of Dhritharaastra all his 100

sons has grown up big in an unrighteous way. They are wicked and jealous lot. They could not enjoy the well being of the Paandavas. Kauravaas invited Pandavaas for playing the game of Dice. They dethroned Pandavaas, in a cunning way. As per the conditions of the game, the losers had to spent 12 years in exile and 1 year in disguise i.e., without revealing their identity. But here, unlike in Ramayana, the younger brothers of Dharma Raja followed his elder brother to fulfill the conditions of the game. Even Draupadhi, their chastised wife followed them to the forest to look after the Pandavaas. Pandavaas following the five human values could complete their 12 years exile and one year term in disguise. But the Kauravaas refused to give them back their Kingdom. This led to the great Mahabharatha War between the Pandavaas and the Kauravaas.

Before the Mahabharatha War, Krishna offere help to both Pandavaas and the Kauravaas. Krishna will not fight but will stay with one side. The entire army without Krishna will serve the other side. Pandavaas opted to Lord Krishna to be on their side. And Duryodhana, who got the second option to select, was happy with the Krishna's army. Kauravaas army was much stronger than the Pandavaas. But in the end it was the Righteous Pandavaas who triumphed.

Today everyone must adhere to Righteousness. As long as there are parents like Dhritaraastra, there will be men like Kauravaas in our Society, warns Baba. And likewise, as long as there are mothers like Kunthi, then there will be men like the Pandavaas in our Society. Today many people claim that in these days it is very difficult to follow Righteousness. But Baba says as Rama's message that Righteousness can be followed with very ease in any Era. Today we all must follow Rama's advice in our respective fields of activity. The Government Officials must serve the public, without misusing their official power. Today's Politicians must sincerely serve the people, instead of the present day Professional Politics. It is the duty of an Ideal Teacher to guide 100 Ideal Students in his career, says Baba. If everyone follows Righteousness and do justice to their jobs, then our Society will be free from Dhritarastras. That means Pandavaas will not face hardships in our Society. Then Love will flourish in our Society. At that point, everyone will see God in one and all. This is Self Realisation or God Realisation. Then everyone will lead a life of Liberation in our Society. For using God's Resources to optimum use, we will always express Gratitude to Him. Thus those who utilized God's External and Internal Resources well will enjoy everlasting Peace and Bliss in the Society.

**ANOTHER DIVINE EQUATION IS  $1+1=3$ :** Bhagawan Baba on one occasion has conveyed another equation ' $1+1=3$ ', to the Humanity. As per man's theory of Arithmetic,  $1+1$  will become 2, but not 3. So what is that latent aspect in this sum  $1+1=3$ ? That is God. This entire Creation belongs to Him. So the Master of this Universe implements His own Arithmetics. As a Master Director of this Universe, without being seen, He will run the show and makes His presence felt by one and all. Bhagawan Baba explained this phenomenon with a simple example.

We have a Mirror. An Object is placed before the Mirror. That Object is reflected in the Mirror. Now we will see 3 items here. They are the Object, its Image and the Mirror.

In our Nature, we are aware of Symbiosis being implemented between two different entities. When they remain separate they lead a normal life, but when they come in close association with each other, both of them are mutually benefitted.

Let us observe how the Divine equation ' $1+1=3$ ' is related to Symbiosis, now. In this equation we must try to realize the latent Divine philosophy involved in it to work wonders. Only positive numbers like '1s' can implement this arithmetic and thereby Symbiosis. Negative numbers like '0s' and '-1s' cannot implement this arithmetic and hence cannot achieve Symbiosis. Positive

numbers can come in close association with other entities to implement Symbiosis, whereas zeroes and the negative numbers who fail to associate with other will fail miserably to achieve Symbiosis.

In order to achieve Symbiosis in our Society, we need men with value '1'. We want to improve the count of men with the value of '1'. At the same time we want to reduce the count of men with values '0' and '-1' in our Society. How? This equation  $1+1=3$  which represent Symbiosis will help us to improve the conditions of our Society in a big way. In order to achieve wonders and enjoy latent benefits, even the zeroes and the negative numbers will make amends to transform into positive numbers.

Let us relate this Divine Arithmetics to our Society. In the sum ' $1+1=3$ ' one number is the Government and the other number is the Voluntary Service Organisations in our Society. Both of them are independent bodies. Both of them must work in close proximity with each other. This Relation can be compared to that of a Mirror and an Object. Both the Government and the Voluntary Service Organisations have a single goal of serving the Society. The functions of both these entities are independent of each other. The process of Symbiosis must be established between these two entities. If they come close with each other, they need not depend upon each other, but both of them will be benefitted in the long run when they work in close association with each other. How?

We have a Mirror. Here the Mirror can be related to that of a Voluntary Service Organisation. A man stood before this Mirror. A man can be related to the Government. When a man stands before this Mirror, his Image will be reflected in the Mirror. This means that the Mirror will help this man to reveal his true Form and Nature. If the Mirror is full of Dust, then such a Mirror will fail to reflect the Object. In such a case what a man must do? In such a case a man has two options. They are to reach a Mirror and clean it or to search for a clean Mirror that is available in our Society.

Today in our Society, how are the Mirrors? They are full of Dust. This means, even our Religious Institutions and Service Organisations are filled with '0's and '-1's. Such Religious Institutions and Service Organisations cannot serve the Mankind. Nowadays these Religious Institutions are just limited to making speeches. They are not doing any loving Service to the Mankind. Such Religious Institutions in near future will not survive. They must realize their lapses on their own and rectify them. They must face the Public and must contribute their bit to the Society. Whatever may be the Brand, afterall a Mirror is a Mirror. So all Religious Institutions must not worry for their Sustenance and Maintenance, but instead, must thrive to serve the Society at large.

How is the Government today? Even in the Government, there are many '1's, '0's and '-1's. If '1's help in good governance, then '0's and '-1's will ruin and spoil the Cream of the Government policies. The Government has abundant Resources at its disposal. So the Government must adopt measures to properly implement the policies, or else they will pave way for a lot of drainage of Resources. In order to realize their lapses, the Government must search for a good Mirror. Can we find such a clean Mirror in our present day Society? If so, what are they? In our Society, there are only few such clean and efficient Mirrors available. They are Sri Ramakrishna Missions and the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisations. Apart from them there are few more such organizations like Mother Theresa's, Paramahansa Yogananda's voluntary service organizations, etc. The Government must come close to reach such Voluntary Service Organisations to rectify their lapses. These Voluntary Service Organisations will rectify the lapses on Spiritual Grounds, i.e. they are impartial and unbiased. This Spirituality will improve the count of '1's and reduce the count of '0's and '-1's in our Society, in all walks of life.

Both the Government and the Voluntary Service Organisations need resources to work with and help in the development process. Without resources, nobody can offer any better services. In this chapter we have analysed the God given resources for man as `1'+`36', where `1' is the value of man and `36' as the value of God's Resources for every man. This means that God is supplementing all the resources in abundance. But man in his turn is not understanding this and misusing them.

How should we use the God given Resources? They are always in abundance. Let's take a case study of Milk. We have the commodity Milk. In India, we have abundant Milk. Here we are comparing God's Resources as Milk, in terms of abundance. But Milk is having a low Shelf Life. Can we increase the Shelf Life of Milk? We can increase the Shelf Life of Milk by initially giving heat treatment followed by storage at low temperatures. But how much of Milk can be stored through Refrigeration? So what is the other alternative? The Shelf Life of Milk is very less because of its high water content. In Cow Milk there is 87% water and in the Buffalo Milk there is 84% water. As the water content is reduced, the Shelf Life of milk can be increased, says Dairy Scientists. With this Revolutionary discovery, we have so many Dairy Products available in the Market. All these Dairy Products satisfy man's needs in a variety of ways. In the process, the Dairy Industry has expanded on all fronts. This growth serves and brings happiness to man with a lot of milk products. This infers that the Milk is in no way misused. Milk is thus consumed as Milk and Milk Products without any wastage.

Just as Milk is utilized by man with 100% efficiency, even God's Resources can be utilized with such efficiency. This is possible with `1's only. `0's and `-1's cannot handle the God given Resources efficiently. The `1's will use Milk as Milk and Milk Products. But `0's and `-1's will utilize Milk as Milk only. They cannot handle the excess abundant Milk. This shows their inefficiency and the selfishness. The Milk which is stored in this fashion will serve no purpose. This abundant Milk will swell like Swiss Bank Accounts in the names of `0's and `-1's..

Man enters this world with empty hands and leaves it empty handed. However much he earned here, he cannot carry with him even a Penny. Man will really enjoy his life, if only he makes optimum use of the God's Resources. Here lies the secret of Bliss. Unable to realise this secret, man is running after Money and worldly possessions for temporary gains. Man must aim for long lasting solutions with the excess abundant resources to serve the humanity at large, instead of accumulating them selfishly.

Today the Mirror is not serving its purpose. It is lying in rest gathering dust. Even man feels that he is not in need of a Mirror. Man must use a Mirror in order to have a decent look of his image. In this context man will recognize the utility value of a mirror and keep it clean, free from dust for daily use. As long as man utilizes the Mirror his beauty will be enhanced. Man's beauty is related to `1's count in the Society. When a Mirror is properly used the count of `0's and `-1's will gradually decrease in our Society.

On 15-2-2014, I have written the concluding statements for this book and later happened to see our daily newspaper, Sakshi. One news item attracted my attention. It read as, "American President's costliest guest is Indian Prime Minister, Mr Manmohan Singh". In this news, it conveyed the news that in 2009, US President has spent 9.62 Crores of Rupees on 5 foreign dignitaries that year, and the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh being the costliest guest with an expenses of 3.55 Crores of Rupees. In this news article both Obama and Manmohan Singh, instead of shaking hands have affectionately hugged each other. This news article carried their photo. The incident has occurred on 24-11-2009, but this news has come in today's newspaper i.e., 15-2-2014. What can I say

with this news article? Should I treat it as a casual incident? or should I treat it as a Strange Coincidence related to the Divine sum '1+1=3'. The moment I read this article, in a thrice I recollected 6 incidents. All these six incidents are related to '1+1=3'. One of these six incidents is related to Manmohan Singh. God is not seen by us. But still it is He, who directs the entire show.

That unseen God has saved the lives of India on many occasions. That unseen God has provided Good Leadership for India on many occasions. That unseen God has transformed many individuals from a bad path into a good path. The six incidents that I am going to narrate here have proofs in books and in newspapers.

**First Incident:** It was around 1965. Krishnan was a Military Officer. He has a lot of devotion for Shirdi Sai. For not being born as Shirdi Sai's contemporary, he used to weep a lot. In response to his ardent fervor, he got a response in a dream. "Come and Visit Me in Puttaparthi". Krishnan went to Puttaparthi and had the darshan of Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba. He realized that both Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai are ONE. Since then Krishnan made regular visits to Sathya Sai.

Those were the days when Mr Krishnan was working in the Indian borders of Amritsar. There was one officer who is working in a higher cadre than him. One day Krishnan had a dream. In that dream, when everybody was fast sleep, ten thousand Pakistani soldiers entered into Indian territories in Amritsar. At that night time there were only 400 Indian soldiers guarding the borders of Amritsar. How to overcome this unexpected nightmare? Immediately Krishnan prayed for God's help. The Lord has directed Mr.Krishnan about the tactics of warfare to be adopted with the available 400 men. The Lord gave positions to all the 400 soldiers. A severe battle took place between both sides. With that strategic fight, the enemy soldiers have left the Indian territories. This is a dream. Krishnan was awake from his dream and documented the entire warfare on paper. In the first instance, Krishnan felt like revealing about this dream to his senior Officer. But if the Officer treats this whole incident as a silly issue, then Krishnan will become a scapegoat before the Officer. Thinking so he kept quiet. A few months passed. One day when his Superior Officer was out of station, and when everybody was fast sleep, ten thousand Pakistani men intruded into Indian territories in Amritsar. At that time only 400 Indian soldiers were available to defend the situation. Krishnan informed about this unexpected development to his senior Officer, who expressed his helplessness and ordered Krishnan to take an appropriate action as per the situation demand. Immediately Krishnan took out the warfare document of his dream and implemented it. That night a fierce battle was fought between both the sides. By dawn, the enemy camp has left the Indian Territory. By the next day morning, fresh Indian Forces reached Amritsar to strengthen the Indian Camp, but the battle was all over by then. The Indian Army conducted a march past to estimate the damage caused by the battle. For that intense battle, to their utmost surprise, the damage caused was very insignificant. No loss of lives was reported. How this can be possible? They called Krishnan and enquired about the warfare he had adopted that night. During this enquiry, Krishnan revealed the Military Officers about his dream, and about the Divine Guidance he received through the dream. Krishnan showed the Military Officers with the documented warfare map. Military Officers realized the Divine Hand that supported the Indian cause. (This incident was recorded in one of the books available in Sri Sathya Sai Literature. Over the past 30 years, I have gone through many books and read many miracles of Bhagawan Baba. Today I cannot remember the source of this incident).

**Second Incident:** Women living in the border areas of Northwest, Northern and Northeast areas Of India, in their daily prayers used to pray God sincerely to save them and the lives of their husbands from the attacks of the Pakistani enemy camp. Their prayers will never go in vain. This incident clearly demonstrates how their prayers got answered.

On one occasion, the Pakistani Air Wing has decided to demolish the Kashmir Airport. They have prepared a strategy for an aerial attack. They have made all the calculations, such as the distance from the starting point to Kashmir Airport, the time and point of attack, etc. They implemented the strategy but failed in their mission. They made this attack in the midnight hours. They have missed the target. The Indian army retaliated and the enemy flight was brought down. The Pakistani air soldiers in order to save themselves took the help of Parachutes, but in the process got captured by Indian men. When they were enquired by the Indian army, their findings surprised one and all. They revealed that at the point of attack, the target appeared full of water i.e., blue. Because of this background, the Pakistani airmen delayed their attack by a few moments, and as a result, they missed the target and thus failed in their mission. They expressed that they failed in their mission, because of 'Allah'.

**Third Incident:** We have learned two incidents here, one related to the Indian Army and the other related to the Indian Air Force. Now I shall narrate here an incident related to the Indian Navy.

Mr.Nanda was a Naval Officer, working in Visakhapatnam. Nanda first visited Puttaparthi to have Sathya Sai Baba's darshan in 1970. Baba gave him an interview and told Mr Nanda that in one year time he will become popular all over India. Mr Nanda is not a senior cadre Officer. Under the circumstances how he can become popular throughout India? With these doubts in mind, Nanda returned back to Visakhapatnam. In 1971, war broke out between India and Pakistan, which went on for 15 days. During this war, an incident shocked and surprised the entire nation. A Pakistani Submarine was noticed in the shores of Visakhapatnam, by the Indian Navy and they destroyed it. This operation was conducted under the supervision of Mr.Nanda. For this operation Mr.Nanda became famous in an overnight all over India. After this incident, Mr.Nanda became a staunch devotee of Sathya Sai Baba. After his retirement from Indian Navy, Mr Nanda settled down at Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi and offered his services as a Security Officer there.

**Fourth Incident:** In 1989, The Times of India newspaper in a nutshell has reported the New Delhi University's Astrology Professors prediction. Their prediction read thus: "Two years from now, a man from Andhra Pradesh will take the reins of India and with his financial policies will lead the country to 150 years ahead". After reading this news, I started thinking about this leader. Who can be this leader? My entire attention was focused on the Andhra Pradesh state leaders. Can it be Mr. N.T.Rama Rao? No. Can it be any other State Congress leader? No. I had no reply. I could not guess that leader. In 1991 Parliament Elections were held in India. During this Elections time Mr.Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. In these Elections, Congress won the majority and came to Power, but their leader Rajiv Gandhi was no more. As a result, P.V.Narasimha Rao became the Prime Minister of India. Thus the New Delhi University's Astrological Professors prediction came true. In fact, Mr Narasimha Rao has not contested this Parliament Elections. But still the Congress Party has shouldered the responsibility on Narasimha Rao. Narasimha Rao with the able support of Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister, have gained people's confidence with their financial policies. With their financial policies, they brought all round development in Indian Economy.

There is no Politics or Foul play in the Astrological Professors prediction. This prediction forecasted Indian Growth and Economy.

(After the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, all the students of Sri Sathya Sai College at Puttaparthi, were very sad. Baba asked them the reason for their sadness. Taking this opportunity, the students asked Baba for not saving Rajiv Gandhi. Baba replied them, "I have saved him twice. But what to do, he has no Love for God". With Baba's pacifying words, the students calmed down)

**Fifth Incident:** That was in the year 1998. I have read news in a nutshell in the Times of India newspaper. This news was also reported again by the New Delhi University's Astrology Professors. It stated thus, "Six years from now, a man from five rivers, non-political in nature, will take the reins of India and will lead the country to a Super Power". After reading this news article, I had three questions in my mind.

1<sup>st</sup> Question: I don't know the name of that state with five rivers. So I enquired somebody for that state. The state got its name because five rivers passed through it and that is "Punjab". Oh! I got the answer.

2<sup>nd</sup> Question: Who is that non-political person, who will take the reins of India? Can it be a Tyrant from Military, Navy or Air Force? I asked somebody for such an event to occur. I got a reply that with Jawaharlal Nehru's foresight India will not have such a problem. Oh! That's great I thought.

3<sup>rd</sup> Question: In 1998 Parliament Elections were held in India. This means that the next Parliament Elections will be held after five years i.e., in 2003. But what is this? The Astrologers predicted the event to occur six years from now i.e., in 2004. How is it possible?

Who this person can be? I stopped my attempts at the 3<sup>rd</sup> question. I could not really go forward in this direction. I got calmed down with this news. In 1989, their prediction came true. Their forecast predicted growth of Indian Economy. Now the same Professors have made another prediction. As per this prediction, this Leader will lead India to a Super Power, with his developmental policies. After reading this news article I started praying God for such a Leader.

In 1998, Mr. Atul Behari Vajpayee has become the Prime Minister of India. One year passed. After one year, a no-confidence motion was raised against his Government, because of the then Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Ms Jaya Lalitha. Mr. Vajpayee's Government lost the no-confidence motion, and as a result his Government has lost the Power. Elections were held again in 1999. This time Mr. Vajpayee got a good majority and re-elected as Prime Minister again. He efficiently ruled the country for the next five year period. That means  $1 + 5 = 6$  years passed since 1998 i.e., it was again elections time in 2004, as predicted. In 2004 Parliament Elections, Congress and its allies got the majority and came to Power. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi has led the Congress and its allies, whereas Vajpayee has led the BJP and its allies. Sonia Gandhi was focused as the Prime Minister Candidate for Congress. But my prayers have not stopped. My curiosity over New Delhi University's Professors prediction has become very strong in me. Only God knows about my curiosity and tension that prevailed in me, at that point of time. In another 24 hours the Prime Minister of India will be sworn in and it appeared as if Sonia Gandhi will take the reins of the country. But see what happened. In the last minute, Sonia Gandhi has proposed the name of Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister of India. My joy knew no bounds. The Astrological predictions came true. Exactly as per the prediction a man from five rivers, non-political in nature has taken the reins of India. My prayers were answered. For many days I was in Bliss. At the same time, the sacrifice made by Sonia Gandhi must be acknowledged by one and all. In 1991, when Congress got majority and Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, Mrs Sonia Gandhi got a chance to become the Prime Minister of India. But she silently preferred P.V.Narasimha Rao and sacrificed that post then. Nowadays such a sacrifice is very rarely seen. Nowadays we find the power mongerers like Lallu Prasad Yadavs in all parts of India, and in all parties. Her sacrifice therefore remains very special in the annals of Indian History.

In 2009, the Congress regained the Power. Manmohan Singh continued as the Prime Minister of India for another five years. As per the prediction, India under the dynamic leadership of

Manmohan Singh has achieved all round development. All the countries of the world have observed the working of Manmohan Singh because of his eminent financial background. All the countries have acknowledged him as one of the best Prime Ministers of India.

But the status of Indian people is quite different. All the leaders of the opposition created wrong signals on Manmohan Singh. This is an unwanted situation. We must think in terms of `1's and not as `0's and `-1's. The Astrological Professors who predicted Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister is indeed a God's boon to all of us. Which country on Earth can be blessed with such a non-political and eminent candidate to become the Prime Minister of the land? We must not lose the services of such eminent men. I conveyed my Gratitude to the Great Lord for Manmohan Singh's services to India.

**Sixth Incident:** In our Society we have `1's, `0's and `-1's. `1's always aim for the well being of the Society. They make their efforts to transform `0's and `-1's into `1's. To such an effort, this incident shows how God lends His Helping Hand.

Today's youth might not have heard about Loknayak Jaya Prakash Narayan. In 1977, for the first time in India, a non-Congress Party has taken the reins of India, and it was JP Narayan who inspired for such a change.

JP Narayan was a Selfless Politician and a Social Worker. Even though he was married, he never entertained marital life to avoid children. This couple thought that having children will hamper their services to the people. Thus he was devoted to Public Service. During those days, in the Chambal areas of Uttar Pradesh, a lot of robberies used to take place. The Government was unable to control this menace. JP Narayan took upon this mantle upon himself. He started a dialogue with the Government and the Bandits. The Government was firm in its stand to punish the Bandits. The Bandits in turn have offered to give up Banditry in case they are pardoned. All the efforts made by JP Narayan appeared to be in vain. At that point of time a relative of JP Narayan gave him a book 'Sathyam Shivam Sundaram' – a life history of Bhagwan Baba – and requested him to read it. He read the book and one incident gained his attention and brought his confidence back. What is that incident?

A man by name Kalpagiri killed a person and in order to avoid the Police and the Punishment, escaped to Haridwar and Rishikesh and stayed there in saintly garbs for 2 years before coming to Puttaparthi. After 15 days Baba gave him an interview. In that fortnight Kalpagiri realized the Divinity of Baba. In the interview room, Baba revealed everything about Kalpagiri and told him, that he can escape the Police, but not God from punishment. Baba advised Kalpagiri to surrender to the Police. Kalpagiri following Baba's advice surrendered to the Police. The court awarded death sentence for his crime. But in Jail, his behavior was very ideal to other jail mates. He was leading a Spiritual life in Jail with Bhajans, Satsangs, etc, and thereby brought a lot of transformation among the inmates of the jail. Kalpagiri was least bothered about his death sentence. He has not lost faith in Bhagawan Baba. The jail authorities on their own accord, has requested the President of India to pardon him from the death penalty. Their request was accepted by the then President of India. After this pardon, Kalpagiri has spent some more time in jail, before being released. After his release from jail, Kalpagiri led a normal life partaking in Organisation activities.

JP Narayan after reading this incident has restarted his dialogue with the bandits. With a lot of Love towards bandits, he requested them to surrender to the Government. He told them that for the crimes committed by them, they can escape the clutches of the Government and the Police, but cannot escape the punishment from God. He narrated the Kalpagiri's episode to the bandits. For the fresh

efforts of JP Narayan, the bandits were transformed and decided to surrender to the Government. Hundreds of Bandits surrendered to the Government and thus this menace was controlled.

The efforts of JP Narayan had received the Helping Hand of God in the form of `Sathyam, Shivam Sundaram.'

In our Society we have `1's, `0's and `-1's. `0's and `-1's are committing a lot of sin. For the sin committed, they have to undergo punishment. They cannot escape the punishment from God. All the natural resources are at the helm of affairs of the Great Lord. If the God's resources are misused, then they have to undergo punishment in this birth, if not in their next birth. The punishment need not necessarily be a jail term. It can be much worse and Our Supreme Lord knows its details of implementation. God is an Eternal Witness, Blemishless and Impartial. Man is committing mistakes, but in ignorance is finding faults with God. This is man's biggest blunder.

We need not commit a crime and enter jail. This world is by itself a jail for all those who commit sin. Electricity is not seen, but we dare not touch a live wire, as we are aware of the consequences. But we are ignorant towards God's Divinity, which is beyond the five physical attributes of the mind and commit sin. In this regard, we must follow our Indweller. If we follow our Indweller, we will become `1's. If we follow our Indweller, we can develop Spirituality within us. The Real Freedom for a man lies in Spirituality. `Swa' + `itcha' becomes `Swetcha'. Here `Swa' means Soul, and `itcha' means Love. That means those who Love God will enjoy the Real Freedom, says Baba. For others this earth is a big jail for them, and they pray God for Liberation.

## 18. DIVINE SHOWERINGS ON ME

Time and Tide waits for nobody. Now I am running 56 years. The contents that I have written in 1987-88 have been mostly covered in this book. I have started this book on 26-10-2013. If but for His Grace and Guidance, I cannot attempt it and complete it. It is He who has made this book possible. By His Grace, I could give it the title as “A Meaningful, Eventful and Blissful Inward Journey”.

Paramahansa Yogananda has written his autobiography in English as ‘Autobiography of a Yogi’. This book became very popular as it contained thrilling and ecstatic spiritual experiences of Paramahansa Yogananda. Now this book is available in all the regional languages in India. Before this book was printed in India, this book was published in 20 different countries all over the world. This book is very popular and was widely read all over the world. Yogananda lived for 60 years. Of these 60 years, he lived 28 years in India, 30 years in US and the remaining period on a world tour. Yogananda’s Master was Yukteswar, whose Master was Lahiri Mahasaya and whose Master was Mahavatar Babaji. Yogananda loves his Master, the most. But Yogananda has presented in this book that experience which he has not disclosed even to his loving Master Yukteswar. When Yogananda was around 25 years of age, at Dakshineswar, he has physically spent with the Divine Mother for around one hour. He described it as his greatest experience of his life. But he never expressed this experience to anybody. Why? Who on earth will realize the spiritual status of an individual? Only God knows. At that age, others will not have faith in his integrity. But with time, Yogananda’s integrity was realized by everybody around him. He wrote all his wonderful experiences in his autobiography. In this book, he narrated that ecstatic experience with the Divine Mother, in a most fascinating way. At a young age, he has not revealed this incident to anybody, but at a later stage of his life, he has revealed this experience through this book. If he has not revealed this experience in this book, then he can be treated as selfish. But he is not selfish. For all the Bliss that he has enjoyed for this exhilarating ecstatic and blissful experience over all these years, how can he express his gratitude to the Divine Mother? He can repay back his Gratitude to the Divine Mother only by revealing this incident to the Physical World, through his autobiography.

Just like Paramahansa Yogananda who has not disclosed the Divine Mother’s experience at Dakshineswar to anybody until the release of his Autobiography, I too had a few such Divine experiences which I relished all the while. But I have not revealed these experiences to anybody around me. It is time for me to reveal those experiences in this book here. If I still don’t reveal them here, I can be considered selfish and also inefficient.

**The First Praise:** During 1987-88, when I was writing the book, ‘The Time bound Sparks, Coincidences and the Responses from the Divinity’, I have used the two terms Non-Violence and Selfless Service very frequently. I used these two terms to such an extent, that I have expressed, “We must use one Eye for Selfless Service and the other Eye for Non-Violence; we must use one hand for Selfless Service and the other hand for Non-Violence; we must use one leg for Selfless Service and the other leg for Non-Violence; we must lend one ear for selfless service and the other ear for Non-

Violence. In this way selfless service and non-violence must become our integral part of our body, mind and the soul”.

A few years after completing this book, when I was in the Sai Kulwant Hall of Bhagawan Baba, I have received the 'The First Praise' from the Divine Master. “SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND MAHATMA GANDHI ARE IN YOU”. I have not expected this praise from the Lord. My Heart melted in ecstasy for this praise. Immediately I got this idea. Swami Vivekananda lived for 39 years, whereas Mahatma Gandhi lived for 79 years. Based on their age, I queried my Lord if my life span is 59. There was no response for my query. More than 20 years passed since this experience.

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa while speaking to his disciples about Swami Vivekananda used to say that after completing his task, he will leave his body. Two days before his death Swami Vivekananda revealed to his close associates about his last moments. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Godse. During those dying moments Gandhi chanted the Lord's name Rama. Even Gandhi has told his close associates that his death is fast approaching. Comparing the deaths of Swami Vivekananda and Gandhi how will be my death? Again there was no response. But I had one response from my Indweller. What is that? “During my final moments Bhagawan Baba will show me His physical form at my residence in Ravulapalem. I felt very happy. Mr D.Rama Rao was Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, East Godavari ex-President. During his last and final moments, Rama Rao folded both his hands and conveyed his Gratitude to the Lord. Everybody around Rama Rao saw these final tributes paid by Rama Rao to the Lord. After his demise, Bhagawan Baba was informed of Rama Rao's death, for which Baba replied, “Yes. I had been with him during his final moments”.

**My Second Praise:** I had this experience in the presence of Bhagawan Baba, again in the Sai Kulwant Hall. In my life I have expressed that I have lead a life of Rama's exile, and also Pandavaas exile and one year of disguise identity. During this period, I led my life practicing all the five human values. A few years later, when I was in the Sai Kulwant, in the presence of Bhagawan Baba, the “The Second Praise”has struck my heart with a profound effect. “ALL THE FIVE PANDAVAAS ARE IN YOU”. I have least expected this praise from the Master. As soon as I received this praise, I asked “How Swami”? To this I received a spontaneous reply. “You are enjoying Dharma Raja's Righteousness, Bhima's valour, Arjuna's Concentration, Nakuls's Tactics and Sahadeva's Patience all in yourself”. With this response I remained in Bliss for many days.

**Third Praise:** I had this experience in the Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine presence of Bhagawan Baba. I received The Third Praise from Him. “FOR THE LORD INCARNATE RAMA, THE ROLE OF HANUMAN WAS VERY SIGNIFICANT. FOR THE LORD KRISHNA, THE ROLE OF ARJUNA WAS VERY SIGNIFICANT. AND FOR THE PRESENT INCARNATE SATHYA SAI, YOUR ROLE CAN BE RELATED TO THAT”. For this least unexpected Praise from the Lord, my joy knew no bounds. Immediately, I had this dialogue with our Lord.

Me: “What have I done to you to be honoured with that Role, Swami? I have never in my life felt that I have done anything to you at all. I am just a simple man. But how come You bestow this Blessing upon me, Swami? In Ramayana, Hanuman was physically present with Rama all the while, and obeyed the orders of Rama. During Krishna's time, Arjuna was also present along with Krishna and obeyed His orders. But Swami, physically, you have always kept me at a distance. In this context when and in what way I have contributed to that Role”?

Our Indweller Sathya Sai: “Rama used his BODY to demolish the demons of His time. Krishna used His WORDS to wipe out the unrighteous men of His time. But Sri Sathya Sai with His THOUGHTS (Infinite Love/Formless attributes) is transforming men into good human beings”.

For this response my joy knew no bounds. Yes, Bhagawan Baba has physically kept me at a distance, all the way. But with His THOUGHTS, i.e., Formless Attributes of the Lord, He was always in contact with me. I never felt the need of Baba’s interview. After completing my M Sc and before God Realisation, I have longed for Baba’s interview to get some Divine Guidance directly from Him. But that was my state then. But ever since August, 1983 after my God Realisation I have experienced the formless attributes of the Lord. Since then, I am constantly enjoying His Presence always during my wakeful state. “I am enjoying God’s Omnipresence, Omnipotence, Omniscience; He is beyond the five elements; no birth and death; no food and thirst. He has countless number of good qualities. He is an Eternal Witness. He is Blemishless, Pure, Unswerving and Liberating God”. With all these Formless attributes I am maintaining my Kinship with God always. So I never felt a need for His physical guidance through His Body and Words.

**Indweller and Omniscient God:** A few years later, after receiving the three Praises, I got a doubt. This doubt was clarified with this dialogue.

Me: Baba, You are my Indweller. As an Indweller, You have made my life more meaningful. You have guided me all the way. I am always Grateful for Your Love and Grace showered on me. But Baba, I had a doubt. You have showered on me three Praises in Your Presence i.e. in the Sai Kulwant Hall only. I could as well have these experiences outside Puttaparthi. Is it not?

Our Indweller Sathya Sai: “There will be many Colleges working in affiliation with a University. Students will learn their lessons from any one of these Colleges. After completion of their studies, who will award the degrees to the students? Even though they have completed their education in a College, they will receive their degrees with the University Emblem over them. In the same way Indweller in every human being can be compared to that of a College. All those who followed the Indweller’s Guidance perfectly well, will receive the Praise from the OMNISCIENT LORD THAT IS ME. So the felicitation has to be done in MY PRESENCE AT PUTTAPARTHY”. My human birth was thus sanctified

**Sai is Transforming many lives into Swami Vivekanandas, Mahatma Gandhis, etc:** Are these praises meant for me alone? Not necessarily so. In the presence of Baba many men have transformed into very good beings. Such individuals might have received the Praise from the Omniscient Lord. These words of Praise are very confidential to the recipients. Only our Indweller knows our Spiritual Status. Nobody in this external world can realize our Spiritual Status. As such, nobody will reveal such experiences to others. In this context everyone will make these experiences confidential and enjoy the Bliss therein. Once Bhagawan Baba in his message told, “Following in the footsteps of Bhagawan Baba, today many men are transforming themselves into Mahatma Gandhis, Swami Vivekanandas, etc”. After hearing this message, the entire audience in the Sai Kulwant Hall raptured into Ecstasy. So based on this message there can be many who might have received such praises.

**Another Praise:** After completing my book ‘The time bound Sparks, Coincidences and the Responses from Divinity’ in 1988 I gave that book to Mr.Achyutha Rao, working in AG’s Office, and an ardent devotee and a Good Speaker of Baba’s message – to read. He gave me the book saying that the contents are very good, language and the style of presentation is also very good and that I had

enough of God's Grace to write such a book. Mr Achyutha Rao too has written a book by name 'Sri Vaariki Prema Lekha' meaning 'Love Letter to My Lord', written on Baba. The book is very small but it is one of the best books I have ever read. It has expressed a lot of Love towards our Lord. After having read my book and while returning it back to me, Achyutha Rao asked me one question. "Have you received the Responses for all your Queries"? At that point of time, silence was my answer to him. I shall narrate here the reason for my silence. I have received the first praise when I was writing that book in 1987-88. "YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATION TO HEAD THE RAMAKRISHNA MISSIONS AT BELUR MATH". I have not at all expected this praise. After receiving this praise, I immediately questioned, "When Swami? In this Birth or in my next Birth?" There was no Response. At that time I was 29 years old, a Householder and not involved in any way with the Ramakrishna Mission activities in any part of India. The praise is from my Indweller, but for my query I have not received any reply. But in my Spiritual Heart I am experiencing this designation since then.

## 19. SURRENDER AT THY FEET

For God being unseen never lose your courage, don't get upset, don't give room for worry, or don't get disheartened with your effort. We are mortals. We are in a Limited Zone, but God is totally in a different Infinite Zone. It is not possible to realize or grasp the infinite phenomenon with a finite phenomenon. So first of all we must overcome our limitations and Spirituality is the only means of overcoming our Limitations. We must use our body, mind, intelligences and our spiritual heart with a good start to reach perfection in Spirituality. In this process every one of us will be utilizing the God given resources at his disposal. How well we handle the God given resources that are at our disposal is the sole criteria by which we achieve our Spiritual progress. Only such a progress will lead man from a Finite State to an Infinite State. When a man progresses into an Infinite state, he will develop Kinship with God. In this state, God directly comes to our practical experience and along with it the Practical Spirituality begins.

We must always remember the Divine sums ' $1+1+1=111$ ' and also ' $1+1=3$ ', throughout our life. Let us develop faith in the Almighty. God has given every man 18 physical External Resources, which must be put to proper use. That is the best thing any man can achieve on the physical and mental plane. By practicing the External Divine resources well, man must aim to manifest the 18 latent Divine qualities within him. During this effort, do not worry over God's form. Never decry your effort. Don't feel that you have missed God's Observations and attention. God with His Formless attributes will always record your every thought, word and deed. You may forget God, but God will never forget you or miss you even for a moment. So never lose faith in God. God in order to promote you may conduct a few tests. To overcome these ordeals, God will give you enough Strength and Knowledge. If you are a fifth class boy, you will be tested at that level only. You will never be tested with 6<sup>th</sup> class questions. In this way, God will help your spiritual progress. While facing these turns, twists and tests, maintain equanimity by overcoming the dualities of life. With equanimity your Spiritual Progress will pick up speed.

Develop Inner Vision. The moment you develop your Inner Vision, your Spiritual effort will gain momentum. Unity of Thought, Word and Deed will get a big boost by your Inner Vision. Until and unless you maintain correlation between thought, word and deed, you cannot develop Inner Vision. Until then you will remain bonded to this external plane of worldly things. So make special efforts to attain this Unity of Thoughts, Words and Deeds. Inner Vision supplemented by this Unity will get you close to your goal of God Realisation. As long as you live on an external plane, your spiritual progress will be very slow. On a physical plane your spiritual progress will achieve the speed

of walk, but if you have achieved the Unity of Thought, word and deed, you will attain the speed of a jet.

This world is full of dualities. These dualities mark the difference between man and the animals. If but for these dualities, a mother will not Love her child. Animals have nothing to do with dualities of life. God created these dualities for man. Facing dualities is a part of man's life. But man's tendency is to accept one of the dualities and reject the other. But man must overcome these dualities of life and develop equanimity. He must not run away from these dualities of life. Achieving equanimity is the highest state in an individual's Spiritual progress, says Baba.

While entering this world, we come empty handed. While leaving this world we again leave empty handed. This is an absolute Truth. Man is born with God's external resources in his possession. Man is supposed to utilize these 18 external resources and aim to manifest the 18 Divine qualities in him, which grants him immense Bliss. Man must leave this materialistic world after manifesting all the 18 Divine qualities within him. All God related information which is unseen by our naked eyes and not realized by our Senses, can be experienced in our Spiritual Heart.

There is fire in the firewood. There is fragrance in the flower. There is salt in the seawater. There is butter in milk. In the same way Divinity is present in all living and non living entities in the world. This Infinite Divinity is God's Love for man. The first thing a man must do is to ignite spirituality in him. The Divine Light thus ignited, will guide us through for the rest of our life.

Good Conduct, Good Intelligences, Always Follow Truth, Discipline, Devotion and Duty bound are the six pre requisites for our spiritual progress. Never go astray from these six qualities. Just concentrate all your efforts here. This is the easiest path for Spiritual Progress. As you grow spiritually, all your lapses will come down.

Let's use all our God given Intelligences to optimum use. Only in the medium of spirituality we can make optimum use of our Intelligences. Only then it becomes easy to surrender at the Lord's feet.

Let us sacrifice all the six impurities of the mind. This makes our mind pure. A pure mind will promote Peace in us. A pure mind's prayers will directly reach God. In order to maintain the purity of our mind, let's continue with the six Virtues like developing inward vision, Sense Control, living in God's proximity, Overcoming dualities, showing interest towards good things in life and acknowledging our Indweller. By Chanting God's name constantly let us overcome the unwanted qualities like speed, instability and fleeting nature of the mind. Only then we can realize our mind power. Such a mind will enable our progress from the Finite State to an Infinite State of Divinity.

Let us get habituated to the five Human Values to broaden Our Spiritual Heart. Let us sacrifice the bad habits or the Vishaya Vaasanas that condense our spiritual heart. Let us broaden our spiritual heart to manifest all the Divine qualities in it. Such a heart can contain the entire universe, says Baba.

Spirituality is different from Devotion. Realise that Devotion is only a part of Spirituality. It takes a very long time to reach the destination through Devotion. Devotion can be compared to walking on legs to reach the destination. Spirituality with all the six pre requisites will be an integrated effort, and hence such a collective effort can be compared to that of a jet. Devotion appears to proceed as an individual effort, but Spirituality proceeds as if it is a collective effort. Man is a

singular entity, but God is a plural entity. God is always interested in a collective effort rather than an individual effort. Hence switch on to spirituality rather than getting limited to devotion.

Man must start his journey from 'I' to reach 'We'. He must not remain as 'I' forever. In order for man to progress from 'I' to 'We', he must always behave as 'I'. As long as man remains as 'I', he will be in a limited state and is never satisfied with his life. So man must progress from 'I' to 'We' to enjoy a Blissful life. Everyone must be aware of these simple truths and make an individual effort. Make an effort as 'I'. Never think of the '0's and '-1's, who form part of our society. After all we all are embodiments of the same Soul. Whatever be the status, man must make his own individual effort to become 'I'. God will take care of everyone and every effort, says Baba. Today we are facing a lot of problems with '0's and '-1's in our society. These problems appear to have no ending at all. These problems are turning into complex webs. And man seems buried in this complex web, unable to come out of it. In this context, man must develop faith in God. If we develop faith in God, all our problems will vanish as passing clouds. Bhagawan Baba has narrated a story in this context. I always relish this story in my heart.

Once upon a time, there lived a Landlord. This Landlord has divided his property into three unequal shares. Half of his property will go to his son,  $\frac{1}{4}$ <sup>th</sup> of his property will be shared by his relatives and  $\frac{1}{5}$ <sup>th</sup> of his property will go to the village temple. After the death of the Landlord, all his property was shared as per his will and wish. But the 19 Horses of the Landlord created a problem. How to share the 19 Horses as per the agreement?  $\frac{19}{2}$  becomes 9.5,  $\frac{19}{4}$  becomes  $4\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{19}{5}$  becomes  $3\frac{4}{5}$ . It appeared that the 19 Horses cannot be divided as per the agreement. All the intellectuals are working hard, but still they had no clue to solve the problem. Just at this point of time, a man came on a horse to that place and after hearing the problem, had solved the problem. He told them to add his horse into that group of 19 horses. Now the count became 20 horses.  $\frac{20}{2}$  becomes 10,  $\frac{20}{4}$  becomes 5 and  $\frac{20}{5}$  becomes 4. Thus the sharing has become easy.  $10+5+4=19$  horses were shared without any parts. The horseman took his horse back and went away. Who is this Horseman, who solved the problem? He is God. The Divine Arithmetic  $1+1=3$  had been manifested here. By default this Divine Arithmetic is always in force. All those who have faith in God can experience this Divine Arithmetic. So even though God is unseen, we all must have firm faith in God to experience Him in our midst. This will really work wonders for us in our lives.

Sometimes in our life, we face unexpected problems, face many trials and tribulations and face life and death situations. We will never find a way out of these situations. Even in such life and death situations we must not lose our courage. We must not lose faith in God. There is another wonderful story which narrates God's help even in such grave situations. Sage Vyaasa who is remembered as a Universal Teacher, on one Guru Poonima day has given this message to the Humanity.

Once there lived a Deer in a forest. A few hunter dogs spotted this Deer and ran after this Deer. The Deer started running for its life. As the Deer was running forward, it came across a very big ditch in its path. Because of this ditch, the Deer cannot go ahead. It turned left to escape, but saw a Bear nearby. Then it turned to its right to escape, but saw a Jackal in close vicinity. On the other side of the ditch, there was a tree and on that tree was a hunter, who is ready to release the arrow from his bow, aimed at the Deer. At this point of time, this Deer has no way to escape. Realising that her final moments has come, the Deer without losing her courage prayed God to save her life. The Deer was saved in a thrice. How? The hunter who was ready to release the arrow from his bow was bitten by a snake. He thus lost his aim and lost its direction. The arrow thus released from the hunter's bow has hit the Bear, and the Bear was killed. Seeing the dead Bear, the Jackal came running towards the Bear

and came in the way of the hunter dogs. Now the hunter dogs left the Deer and ran after the Jackal. Now the Jackal has to run for its life from the hunter dogs. So in a thrice, not only all the problems have been cleared for the Deer, but all the avenues were again opened for her. So Sage Vyaasa with this story has advised man that he must never lose faith in God in spite of the heavy odds that he may face from time to time, in his life.

After reading the above story of Vyaasa, I had a doubt in my mind. The Deer which was happily moving around until a few moments back was facing life and death situation a few moments later. The Deer has no way to escape. “What happened to the Deer in the story, can it happen to anyone in Real life?” was my doubt. My Indweller is aware of my doubt. He has decided to correct me. In one week to ten days time, after reading this story, my situation drove me to the verge of life and death. I realized my lapse very soon. From the story, I realized that it must be Almighty God who can save me. I voluntarily surrendered at His Feet. I prayed God thus. “Oh Lord! You have saved the Deer in a moment, but save me from my problems in one year time from now, i.e., by the next Guru Poornima”. All my problems were solved in one year. In my story, the hunter was not bitten by a snake, but the sting of the bow was broken. And coming to the Bear, the arrow which was released thus has fallen in front of the Bear and the Bear ran away. Seeing the Bear ran away, the Jackal got frightened and came in the way of the hunter dogs. The hunter dogs then chased the Jackal, leaving the Deer all alone. In this way, I was freed from all problems in one year. God will always correct us and guide us, if we take His Help. He is a live wire and He acts with exact precision. Even His message will act as a live wire. So develop faith in Him. Never doubt Him. The Divine arithmetic ‘ $1+1=3$ ’ will be in operation all the while. Be aware of this Divine facility.

**Constitution Amendment:** We consider our Indian Constitution as one of the best Constitutions in the world. If we observe our Constitution on Paper everything seems to be development oriented. Our Constitution encouraged only Good deeds and condemned the Bad deeds. From the Government side there are Courts to decide the Good and the Bad, Legal and the Illegal activities. All the culprits, decided by the court are punished. The Police Department is meant to help the people. They are doing yeomen service for the well being of the Society. In the same way, there are many Government Institutions which are rendering services to all sections of the people. So in this way, a Government is meant to serve the people. If the Constitution is implemented in a desired way, we are indeed blessed. But the desired development is not achieved as per the wishes of our Constitution. There appeared many lapses in our Constitution, and hence our Constitution was amended more than 50 times since Independence. Even still, our Constitution has not achieved the development on expected lines. What can be the reason for this failure? There is only one reason. Our Constitution makers, no doubt are really efficient men and they have prepared an excellent Constitution. “But our Constitution makers have gone wrong at one point. While preparing our Constitution, they have taken all the Arithmetic sums i.e., Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division into consideration. They have taken only positive numbers into consideration i.e., they have treated all men as ‘1’s. In the process they failed to realize the ‘0’s and the ‘-1’s in the Society”. Our Constitution makers have gone wrong here. But as of now, our Government is in the hands of ‘1’s, ‘0’s and ‘-1’s and hence our Constitution is failing miserably to achieve the desired results of Development.

The intelligent men in our Society must observe this lapse. The helm of affairs must be in the hands of ‘1’s of our Society. ‘0’s and ‘-1’s must be controlled from making decisions for our Society. When the count of ‘1’s increase and the count of ‘0’s and ‘-1’s decrease as decision makers, only then our Constitution will be free from lapses. Let us amend our Constitution one more time based on ‘Age’ and ‘Experience of Selfless Service’.

Our Society cannot change in a day or in an overnight. It needs time. It must be a gradual process. A few salient features for us to follow to achieve this change in the near future, are as follows.

- Every child after attaining an age of 5 must join Bala Vikas. They must continue in Bala Vikas from 5-16 years of their age to learn all the good things of life. This will help them grow spiritually i.e., they will remain as '1's for life. They will depend on their own skills or God-given resources to survive. They will not depend on subsidies or such other benefits for their survival.
- After completing the Bal Vikas, they must join any Voluntary Service Organisation and render Selfless Service to the Society.
- Those who contest for Village Sarpanch must fulfill 3 pre-requisites. They must partake in Bal Vikas, followed by 15 years of Selfless Service to the Society through a Voluntary Service Organisation. They must be between 30 to 40 years of Age.

Those contesting for the Assembly must fulfill the following pre-requisites. Their age must be between 40 to 50 years. They must be Bal Vikas students for 10 years. They must do 15 years of Selfless Service after their Bal Vikas. They must serve as a Village Head for 5 to 10 years. We have 10 to 15 villages coming under one Assembly segment. This means we must select the efficient one among these 10 to 15 village heads to represent the Assembly.

Those contesting for the Parliament must fulfill the four pre-requisites for the Assembly. In addition, they must serve at the Assembly for a period of 5 to 10 years. We have 5 to 6 Assembly Segments under one Parliament Segment. We must select that individual who has excelled from among the Assembly Segments.

Until now we had no conditions to contest the elections. But why these conditions now? We must introspect the need of these conditions. We want to learn a language. To learn a language we will first learn the alphabets. Without learning the alphabets can we gain command over the language? No. After learning the alphabets, we will form the words with the help of alphabets. With words we will form sentences. With the help of sentences we will form paragraphs. With a group of paragraphs a lesson is formed. And with a series of lessons a book is compiled. In the same way, even for entering politics, we must learn the alphabets. What are these alphabets? They are Bal Vikas which teach us the Moral Values at a young age of 5-16. And after completing Bal Vikas, we must put the values into practice by joining a voluntary service organization to render service to the society.

This screening will prevent '0's and '1's from decision-making slots in our Society. This will enable only '1's to enter into decision-making.

Our Constitution has provided us Rajya Sabha. All the eminent men in their respective fields can enter into Rajya Sabha directly without the above screening. Such eminent men can contribute to their might towards their field of activity.

**Role of Spiritual Service Organisations:** How these Spiritual Service Organisations can contribute to the well-being of the Society? In this regard, the message of Mr. Anjanaiah, ex-President of Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisations of AP is an eye-opener for one and all. His message can be considered as an ideal message to all the Spiritual Service Organisations present in our society. He has given his message based on the different activities that are being implemented in the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisations. All Spiritual Service Organisations must take a leaf out of his message. His message is as follows.

“Man has four options or paths for his liberation. They are the paths of Action, Devotion, Knowledge and Yoga. In the good old days saints and sages used to follow only one path and with a lot of effort for many years they used to attain liberation. But God has made this liberation process very simple. God has founded the Sri Sathya Sai Organisations. The Organisational activities comprise of many Spiritual, Educational and Service activities. Join the Organisation and participate in all the activities. This will be your Action Path or Karma Yoga. Partake in Bhajans, Sai Vrathams, Yagnams, etc conducted by the Organisation. This will be your path of Devotion. Take part in Bal Vikas, Sath Sanghs and reading of the available Divine Literature. This will take care of your Knowledge Path. Right from dawn to dusk, do all your acts contemplating on God. This will take care of your Yoga Path. In this way, everyone who joins these Spiritual Service Organisations must take part in all the activities of the Organisation. By following all the Organisational activities simultaneously, they will attain liberation in much quicker time. In fact they will attain liberation very soon and lead a life of ‘Jeevan mukthi’ i.e. living souls of liberation”.

**If you are all Frogs from the Wells then I am a Frog who has seen an Ocean:** At this point of time, we must recollect what Swami Vivekananda has conveyed in his Chicago address in 1893. “All the Religious heads and the Spiritual heads are living like Frogs in their wells. Thus they are limited to their wells. Not realizing their limitations, they proclaim that their well is the Supreme Cosmos for them. These Religious heads want to contribute for the well being of the Society. But being limited to their wells, how can these men contribute to the wellbeing of the Society”? In this context Swami Vivekananda has claimed thus. “I am the only Frog which has seen the Ocean. All the remaining Frogs present here, have been limited to their wells”.

What Swami Vivekananda spoke in Chicago is very much true. The situation has still not changed much. A Hindu Religious head feels that his religion is the best. He advises so in these lines. So is the case with all other Religious Heads, who follow suit with others. All this is Simple Ignorance. In this context, we must remember what Swami Vivekananda has proclaimed regarding all religions. “Today all Hindus must forget their Bhagawad Gita. Today all Muslims must forget their Quran. Today all Christians must forget their Bible. Only then we can attain Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God”.

What is meant by Hindus forgetting Bhagawad Gita? What is meant by Muslims forgetting Quran? And what is meant by Christians forgetting about Bible? Swami Vivekananda gave a fitting reply to one and all. “Today all Hindus must read the Bhagawad Gita, understand it well and then implement it in Practice. The knowledge gained by reading and practicing Bhagawad Gita is Infinite. This knowledge which is called the Practical Knowledge will enable to see God in everyone. When they see God in each and every Soul, they enjoy an everlasting Peace and Bliss. This is nothing but God Realization. Such Realized souls have crossed all barriers of their limitations to enter the Immortal Sphere of Infinity. When they are practically enjoying this Blissful state, where is the need of Bhagawad Gita for them. When they see God in all humans, then they are no more limited to their religion. They then belong to the Universal Religion of Humanity. In the same way all people must read their Religious Texts, understand them well and implement the contents into practice. By following their own religion man can progress from a finite state to an infinite state. In this Infinite, Blissful state they see God in all. At this point of time, they belong to only one Universal Religion – The Religion of Love. This “Religion of Love” will enable Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God”.

Religion is meant for this purpose. Any Religion promotes Unity in diversity. Man must forget all his limitations and must attain the state of this ONENESS. This is the cream of all

Religions. Sri Adi Sankara could see God even in a Chandala. We all must attain this knowledge. We all must develop Religious Tolerance. As long as the Religious differences persist, we must practice Religious Tolerance too, else there is no need for it. Man must see God in all. This is the highest state of Spirituality. This is the purpose of Spirituality. As we develop Love for our fellow beings all our narrow mindedness will vanish. This will broaden our Spiritual Heart. A broadened Spiritual Heart can contain the entire Universe, says Bhagawan Baba.

**First Learn to Love Your Religion:** Once a lady devotee from United States, in the interview room pleaded Baba that she wants to convert herself from Christianity to Hinduism because she believed that Baba is God and Baba belongs to Hinduism. Baba asked her, “Have you ever read the Bible”? The lady replied in the negative. Baba then advised her to read the Bible, understand and practice it. Baba told her that if she understands the contents of the Bible well, then she will not feel the need to change her religion.

This message of Bhagawan Baba must be understood by all those who are changing their religions. If they understand their own religion well and put it into practice then they will never find a need to change their religion.

All religions are good. All religions promote Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man. Under the circumstances where is the need to promote one’s own religion at the cost of other religions?

**Divine Salutations:** Bhagawan Baba for most part of His Mission has never expressed His emotions. But just before the end of His sojourn on earth, He used to express emotions. These emotions were not expressed until now. But why they are expressed now? Those who have installed God in their hearts and enjoy Him always can realize His emotions. The Incarnation of Bhagawan Baba is coming to an end. Bhagawan Baba is an Incarnation of Love. His Love is Infinite and it overflowing from Him submerging all those who are in His vicinity. Those who received His Love are the Blessed Souls. In this way many Souls attained Liberation through His Guidance. To all those Loving and Liberated Souls, for the first time and also for the last time Baba has conveyed His Salutations.

Bhagawan Baba has made two promises to the entire Humanity. “You will enjoy every inch of this entire Universe with Divine Sai Philosophy. In the near future, this entire world will become Prasanthi Nilayam, the Abode of Highest Peace in the World”.

We are humans, limited in nature. But still in God’s creation, Human Birth is the most precious one. God is giving us a chance to take part in His Mission on Earth. God is forever carrying on four activities on this Earth. They are 1) Improving Spirituality, 2) Improving the Knowledge of Men, 3) To Protect the Good and Punish the Wicked and 4) To Uphold the Righteousness in the Society. God incarnates in this world from time to time and engage Himself in these four activities. He thus sets Himself as an example for others to follow suit. Those who follow God’s message and take part in this God’s work, will be Blessed. Vaanaras (Monkeys) have helped Rama in His Mission. Gopikas has shown unparallel Love towards Lord Krishna. Paandavaas followed Krishna’s orders in Thought, Word and Deed. Whenever God incarnates on this Earth, we all must take an opportunity to part take in His Mission. In the present Era, Bhagawan Baba has led the Humanity from the front.

When I was around 6 years old, I have a very strong desire to see God. It is said that we all need a Spiritual Master to guide us. But when we possess this desire then the Almighty God will take up the role of our “Spiritual Master” to guide us all the way. This desire will work wonders for us.

At the time of God Realisation, I was assigned the task to prevent corruption in man. What have I done to the society in this regard? I realized that by His grace and Blessings, I have written the alphabets of Spirituality. I have also written the “Number Theory” and the “Divine Arithmetic” chapters in this book. These three items have universal application, irrespective of Caste, Creed, Color, Race and Religion. This is the only contribution for my Society. So from my heart of hearts, I humbly submit to all those to grasp these Divine Contents with an open mind ( a pure heart) and get benefit in the process.

**Service, Friendship and Surrender:** Bhagawan Baba defined the nine forms of Devotion as ‘Nine Steps’. They are Sravanam (Hearing), Keerthanam (Chanting God’s name and glory), Smaranam (Contemplate on God), Paada Sevanam (Worshipping God’s Feet), Vandanam (Offering Salutations to the Lord), Archanam (Recollecting God’s Divine qualities), Daasyam (Offering Service to the Lord), Sakhyam (making Friendship with the Lord) and Aatma Nivedanam (Surrender to the Lord).

Rama as Lord Incarnate has killed the demons using HIS BODY. At that time, Hanuman has taken up the role of a SERVANT to the Lord. During Krishna’s time, Krishna used HIS WORDS to promote RIGHTEOUSNESS in the world. Arjuna has taken up the role of a FRIEND to Lord Krishna. And in the present Era, the Supreme Lord has taken up the form of Sathya Sai, who with His infinite love has transformed many souls to Liberation. The need of the hour for man is to SURRENDER at His Lotus Feet to enjoy God’s Formless attributes .

*Yours Lovingly K.e.s.Vivekananda Reddy*

## 20. SOME OF BHAGAWAN BABA'S INSPIRING MESSAGES TO THE HUMANITY

Who wrote Vedas? Vedas are said to have emerged from Lord's Mouth. Hence Vedas have no authors. Bhagawan Baba is 8<sup>th</sup> class drop out. But Baba gave Universal messages to the Humanity for well over 70 years. Nobody has seen any Religious Text in His possession. During His Lectures, He has covered all aspects of life, including Religion, Science, Medicine, etc. How this is possible? The simple answer for this query is that He is God.

Baba has started a monthly magazine, Sanathana Sarathi in 1958. Through this magazine, He has authored many articles on Vedas, Upanishads, Sastras, etc. Kasturi, the Editor of Sanathana Sarathi, was very much perplexed over these articles. Without referring any books, Baba is authoring these articles for Sanathana Sarathi. For him, Bhagawan Baba is the Veda Purusha Himself.

Mr. Kamaavadhani is a Master of Vedas and Mr. Bhagawantham, a renowned Scientist, worked as a National Defense Adviser to the Government of India. One year, the summer course topic was Vedas. The Summer Course will continue for one month. Students and well learned men and women from all over the Globe attend this camp. And Baba was giving His lecture daily on the topic of the Vedas. Bhagawantham has a doubt. Baba was never seen reading any religious texts. So how can He deliver such authentic messages on Vedas? He expressed his doubts to Kamaavadhani, for which Kamaavadhani replied, "What Baba speaks becomes Veda".

We see many great men, saints and sages authoring many religious texts. They convey their message through their books. But here again Baba is an exception from the rest. His message to the humanity is "My Life is My Message". Who can claim such authority over one's message? Only God can claim such an authority.

A lot of Scholars from many parts of the world, who has the Spiritual zeal, has gained Spiritual Information through their queries with Baba. Baba supplemented them all with spontaneous answers. And Baba's answers were the best available technical information on that related topic. How is this possible? The simple answer is that Baba is that Supreme Knowledge.

Ever since He declared His Avatarhood, Baba delivered His Universal message to the Humanity. He expressed the spirituality in the most simplest of form. Once, Baba has stated that 50% of His devotees are still unable to grasp His Divine message. This only shows how much concern Baba has for his devotees. Man with his materialistic approach is on a limited plane and wants to contemplate on God, an infinite entity. To the finite people, the infinite things must be presented in the most simplest of form, so that they can be understood well by them. Baba has such love and concern for His devotees' illumination. In order to make them understand, the messages of Baba will target the devotees's hearts.

Bhagawan Baba explains very complex spiritual subjects in a most simple form. In spite of this Baba says that His speeches are not understood by 50% audience. In this context, we must learn what Mr. Anil Kumar has said regarding Baba's Divine messages. "Bhagawan Baba has a lot of Love for all of us. He gives wonderful messages in the most simplified form. Baba, at the end of His speech used to call me and ask me how the speech is. In the beginning I used to reply 'Wonderful' as if in a tone of praise. Baba used to ask me further questions relating His speech. In this way, I used to repeat

the entire speech again to Baba. Is there anyone on Earth, who introspects his speech this way. No. This shows Baba's Love and concern to spread the Divine Knowledge among the Humanity".

I have claimed Bhagawan Baba as the Supreme God, throughout this book. Read the available literature on Baba and you can take your own decision. With these above few words, I want to present here some of His inspiring messages to the humanity for the benefit of the readers. Most of us lead a materialistic life which is very limited, and as such we are unable to realize all the Truths that hold true to our Human Beings. Baba's messages will enable us to shift from a limited sphere to the Infinite state of Bliss. Here are some of Baba's inspiring messages that purify our Mind and broaden our Spiritual Heart.

**Types of Worship:** We worship God in 5 ways. They are our Senses, Mind, Words, Energies and Spiritual Heart.

**We must obey our elders:** Children must respect their parents, teachers and the elders to make all of them happy. As children they cannot realize what is good and what is bad. Hence they will question their parents in this regard. These children in turn, may or may not get proper replies from them. The so called elders, teachers and parents may speak the good things of life but may not practice them in real life. This will cause confusion in the minds of the children. Baba warns today's parents as responsible for the children's ignorance and bad behavior. Baba says that today's parents are just satisfied with their children's mode of questioning. This is nothing but ignorance on the part of parents.

Baba, through Ramayana, guides the entire humanity to respect the parents. Children must look after the well-being of their parents through their old age, irrespective of their character. Without our Parental Love, we could not have survived in this world. Hence we must give top priority in taking care of our parents till their last breath. Under this context, I recollect here a Sai Devotee's experience who told me with tears flowing from his eyes. During his childhood days, whenever he fails to listen to his parent's advice or whenever he missed spiritual activities at home, he used to receive punishment from his parents. It is this love which is responsible for his present Spiritual Status.

Pattabhi Ram, the Magician, Psychiatrist and a Sai Devotee, in a Seminar conducted for college students at Rajahmundry, had expressed that it is only those parents who followed a Righteous path can correct their erred children.

**Baba's Suggestions to Today's Parents:** Dhritharaastra, the father of Kauravaas was blind from the birth. Hence, Pandu his younger brother got the right to rule the kingdom, as per the laws of the land. But deep within Dhritharaastra, he has a strong desire for his Kingdom. Dhritharaastra means 'to desire a thing, which does not belong to him'. Baba says that today's parents must not behave as Dhritharaastra. "Our desires in us will destroy our devotion for God. Our Anger will destroy the discriminative power in us. When our desires exceed limits, then that will destroy our actions too", says Baba. In this way, the Love of Dhritharaastra has spoiled the future of his 100 sons. This false love of Dhritharaastra has made him an inefficient father, who could not punish, correct or admit his children's mistakes. Kauravaas mother Gandhaari has no such false love towards her 100 sons, but indirectly she was also responsible for their downfall, says Lord Krishna. In the Mahabharatha War, all the Kauravaas were killed, whereas the 5 Pandavaas survived the war. Gandhaari blamed Krishna for this outcome. Krishna replied her by saying that she has never showered her motherly love to her

100 sons, as she blindfolded her eyes, as a sign of respect to her husband's blindness, not realizing in the process that she had failed miserably in delivering her motherly love to her 100 sons.

Nowadays there are many parents who show a blind eye towards their children's errors. This is not desired. All parents must show the love of Kunti, towards their wards in directing them into a Righteous path.

**Life is a Game, Play it:** God is Omniscient and Omnifarious. He knows each and every minute detail of all of us. Nothing materializes in His absence. For all our acts, our Omniscient Lord can acknowledge our acts. As per the law of Cause and Effect, the good and the bad acts will have similar results in store for us. Expecting that God is not seeing or hearing us, never commit mistakes. God need not see or hear us. Man cannot filter his good and bad thoughts from God's Omniscience. So let us leave our bad qualities (bad thoughts, words and deeds) and shift to good things in life.

Life is a Spiritual Game, resembling Hide and Seek. Life is a game between Good and the Bad. In this game, all those who commit mistakes thinking that there is no God will be losers, and all those who have faith and stick to good qualities will be winners. In this game, it is not easy to find God. But with Faith, he who continues in a righteous path will reap rich benefits of His Blessings and Bliss as the game progresses. Once we taste the Divine Blessings we get ready for another game. In this way, we show eagerness to play many more games in His presence. In this way our life will become a game. For each and every game played, we get the benefits of Enlightenment, Knowledge and Bliss. God loves to Test us. "Your tests are My Taste", says Bhagawan Baba. It is God who Himself gives us enough strength to play the game of our life.

**Fight between Good and the Evil:** The Human Life appears to be a blend of good and evil. In a physical war, we are totally covered with a protective shield from top to bottom to protect ourselves from our enemy attacks. But what is the protection we are taking to prevent attacks from our inner enemies? Our inner protection shield is 1) Devotion, 2) Knowledge and 3) Detachment shield. Who are our inner foes? They are Attachment, Ego, Desires, Anger, Miserliness, Greed, Pride and Jealousy.

Once, Baba explained the game of Football, this way. Football is filled with air. As long as there is air in the Football, it will be kicked by players of both sides. If the football is devoid of air, then no player will kick it. The air in a football can be compared to persons's Ego. As long as there is ego in a person, he will be kicked by both Good and the Bad situations in his life. But once he gives up his ego, he will reach a state of equanimity and hence thereafter receives no more kicks.

**Perform Actions that Please God:** What type of acts should we perform? All our acts must be taken up to please God. For example, Daksha has performed a Yagna. Daksha performed this ritual with ego and attachment, against the wishes of Lord Siva. Many sages advised Daksha to stop such a Yagna, but Daksha did not heed to their advice. Even though it is a spiritual ritual, for having attempted against the wishes of the Lord Siva, this ritual turned out to be a war. In another example, let us consider the case of Arjuna. At the beginning of the Mahabharat War, Arjuna was reluctant to fight. But still, Lord Krishna convinced Arjuna to fight the war. In this way even though Arjuna fought a physical war, it turned out to be a great spiritual ritual, as it was attempted as per the wishes of the Lord Krishna. So man must be selective in his deeds. Such good acts will transform into spiritual acts.

**Prasadam and Naivedhyam:** For a physical mundane world and an Inner Spiritual Life, the meanings of some of the terms that we commonly use have an entirely different meaning. On a physical plane, we offer some food as 'Naivedhyam' to God and after the ritual later consume it as

'Prasadam'. But on one occasion Baba gave this message to one and all. All the natural resources belong to God. God has everything in abundance. In this context, what is left for man to offer for God? Is it food in the form of 'Naivedhyam'? The food so offered as Naivedhyam will be spoiled in a few hours or in a day. Should we offer such a Naivedhyam to God? No. God is offering the greatest thing of His creation i.e., Human Birth as His Prasadam to man. Along with this Human Birth God offers Sense Organs, Mind, Intelligences, Spiritual Heart and the eight types of Resources called 'Asta Aiswaryaalu'. Man must make proper use of all these resources. All these resources of God, offered to man are not spoiled in a day or two. Man can attain permanent Bliss if he makes good use of these God given resources. What we can offer to God are our Good Acts. All our Good Acts will serve as a true offering, 'Naivedhyam' to God.

**The Purpose of Pilgrimage:** Nowadays, the purpose of Pilgrimage is lost. The purpose of Pilgrimage trips is to get rid of our evil tendencies and develop good qualities in us. But today, the meaning of these trips has lost its meaning. It got a materialistic view. It appears as if man is doing business with God. After fulfilling his desires man is acknowledging God with these Pilgrimage trips. When the entire natural resources belong to Him, what is left for man to offer for God? He must stop this give and take policy with God. Through Pilgrimage, man must promote good and reduce the evil tendencies in him.

Once, the neighbors of Tukaram before going on a pilgrimage trip requested him to join them. Tukaram gently refused them but instead gave Sweet Gourd vegetables to them on his behalf and told them to return them back after their return. After the pilgrimage trip Tukaram invited all the pilgrims for lunch. Dish made of Sweet Gourds was served in the lunch for them. The Sweet Gourd dish turned out to be very bitter. Tukaram exclaimed loudly, "These Sweet Gourds have not left their bitterness in spite of the pilgrimage trip". Indirectly, Tukaram taught a lesson to all those who went on a pilgrimage.

**Temporary or Permanence:** What are the benefits accrued for following Spirituality? As long as man remains in the physical mundane world, he gets habituated to temporary benefits. In this context, every man must realize what Lord Krishna taught us through Bhagawad Gita. Lord Krishna was explaining Arjuna in a number of ways to perform selfless acts. In spite of so many explanations, Arjuna was still not convinced. At this point, Lord Krishna asked Arjuna, "What type of benefits you want - Temporary or Permanent"? To this query, Arjuna replied that he want permanent benefits. If we perform selfless acts with detachment, we can reap permanent benefits, replied Lord Krishna.

As long as man engages his mind, he will enjoy temporary benefits only. When man engages his Spiritual Heart, he will enjoy permanent benefits which are blissful, says Lord Krishna.

**Jaundice:** Once a senior student of Bhagawan Baba had a Jaundice attack. This student conveyed about his Jaundice to Baba. Baba replied 'Very Happy' and went away. This student was puzzled with Baba's reply. What is this? My parents, friends, well wishers or my relatives will not respond me in this way for my Jaundice? But why Baba replied 'Very Happy'. Who is correct? Man or God? God is always correct. God is an Embodiment of Truth. Since that day, the attitude of this student has changed. He developed his Inner vision. As long as man dwells in this physical mundane world, his ignorance will prevail, and in his ignorance he thinks that God is mad.

**Shift from External Vision to Inner Vision:** Today man is not realizing his lapses, the main reason being his ignorance and attachment to the objects of this physical world. In this context, Baba gave us 4 illustrations. 1) A thief committed a crime and served 3 years imprisonment. At the end of the 3

years term, the jailor called the thief and told him to pack his luggage and get ready to be released from jail. In response, the thief replied, "Please keep my luggage here. I will return back very soon". Baba has compared today's status of men to that of this thief. Today man is not repenting for his mistakes. He is not feeling shy for his lapses. Instead of correcting himself, he is ready to repeat the same mistakes again. What a pity? Today, with ignorance man is not making any efforts to improve.

2). Children will face Examinations. 'Why should you write exams?' Baba asked them once. Everybody replied that to get promoted to a next higher class. But Baba replied, "Students must write exams in order not to rewrite them again". Rewriting exams mean attempting supplementary exams.

3). A patient takes medicines. Why a patient takes medicines? Baba asked the patients present there. The patients replied, "To recover from their ill health". Baba corrected them by saying, "Not to take the medicines again".

4). Daily we see a lot of new born babies being born. 'Why Humans are born', asked Baba. Baba received many replies. Finally Baba replied, "Not to be born again". Thus the external vision differs from the inward vision. We must develop the Inner Vision to grasp the Eternal Truths.

**Sthitha Pragnya:** Alexander the Great crossed the Sind river and entered India. His army came across a sage, who is immersed in Meditation. A soldier tried to disturb his meditation. The sage was unperturbed. He still continued his meditation. A little later, Alexander came and the sage was disturbed from meditation. The sage was not afraid of Alexander. The sage started laughing at Alexander. Alexander has not faced such a situation in his life. With this experience he developed an optimistic view about India. He thought that India is full of such Spiritual Giants, who are after God, and not after this physical mundane world.

Who is Sthitha Pragnya? He who depends on God or Soul Power is Sthitha Pragnya. He shows more interest in his soul power rather than on his body. He depends upon his sustenance and maintenance only on God, instead on the physical world. Our body is made of five elements. This body which is made up of five elements will drop dead any moment. Then what is left without decay, is our Soul. Sthitha Pragnya relies on Soul, says Baba.

**Unity in Diversity:** Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara form the Trinity for Hindus. Brahma creates us, Vishnu sustains us and Maheswara dissolves us. When I was very young, the question of who is great prevailed among our children - Lord Vishnu or Lord Maheswara. In my house, all children belong to Vishnu party, whereas I belong to Maheswara party. Though I belong to Maheswara party, I had great liking for Lord Vishnu. Hindus has two sects, the Shaivites and the Vaishnavites. Shaivites worship Lord Siva whereas the Vaishnavites worship Lord Vishnu alone. Knowing these differences in my younger days, I became very sad. Not only among Hindus but such differences prevailed in other religions too. Among the Muslims, there are the Sunnies and the Sufies. Among the Christians, there are the Catholics and the Protestants. So in each religion, differences of opinion prevailed. As a God realized soul, I entertain no such differences now. There is only one Religion, the Religion of Humanity, says Baba. Why these differences prevail in each religion? That means those who accept these differences are not God realized souls. Even today these differences prevail in all religions. All these sects have their religious heads. Are these Religious Heads Realised God? No. How can they realize with this ignorance? Is there anybody on earth to illumine them?

God incarnate illumines the Humanity with these Truths. But still the Religious Heads are not in a position to grasp the Truths. God is only one for the entire Humanity. Only those who understand Lord's Formless Attributes will be in a position to understand these Truths. Until then, even the Religious Heads will remain ignorant of God's Infinite Philosophy.

Baba on one occasion has narrated the philosophy of the Trinity in this way. “Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara are present in every human being. Brahma is the Tamasik state, Vishnu is the Rajasik state and Siva is the Sathwik state. Brahma expresses Himself as WORD, Vishnu expresses Himself as the MIND and Maheswara expresses Himself as the SPIRITUAL HEART. Our Spiritual Heart is the basis of our thought processes, and hence Lord Vishnu is considered as the son of Lord Siva. The thought processes serve as the base for the word and hence Brahma is considered as the son of Vishnu”. In this way, everyone must believe that the Trinity is within every one of us. Bhagawan Baba is God Almighty. We must receive, acknowledge and accept what Baba has said in this regard.

Once a foreigner, who wanted to test Baba requested Him to create a Monkey. Baba responded immediately. Baba opened His empty palms, folded together. A baby Monkey was in His palms. Baba changed this baby monkey into a medium size monkey and a few moments later into a full size monkey and allowed it to move freely in the interview room. The monkey was making all sorts of noise, breaking the silence of the interview room. The same foreigner who requested Baba to create a monkey has again requested Baba to control the monkey. Upon his request Baba materialized a Banana fruit and gave it to monkey. Monkey then ate the Banana and sat silently. At the end of the interview, Baba called the monkey, took it into His Hands. The monkey slowly reduced in size and finally vanished in His folded palms. In this way, Bhagawan Baba proved that He is Brahma (Creator), Vishnu (Sustainer) and Maheswara (Destroyer) all in Himself.

Once, Baba went to Anantpur Women’s College, entered a classroom and sat silently listening to the Teacher. On that day, the Physics teacher was explaining the phenomenon of ‘Light’ to the students. At the end of the class, Baba raised a question to the teacher. “What is the message that Light offers to the Humanity”? The teacher was perplexed with this unexpected question. She had no answer. Baba Himself replied, “Unity in Diversity”. All those who were present were thrilled to hear this reply. In this way God spares no effort to illumine the humanity with Truth.

**You make your Own Efforts:** We feel as if the entire world is in doldrums. We are even afraid of the Nature. There are many among us who want to achieve many great things, but could not attempt because of the prevailing situations around them. To all such individuals, Baba had a message for them.”Do not get Panic by the outside world or by the Nature. Do not make any attempts to redeem the world. Everyone must make his own efforts to lift himself up. God will take care of the Humanity”.

In matters relating to Spirituality, we must make our own efforts and not show concern about the rest of the Humanity. When we improve spiritually, the rest of the world will change for us. All Spiritual men will grow strong. Here is a best example. Once, a person attended an interview to join military service. On the interview day, he slipped and fell down. He was promptly helped by all military men who were near him. He thought that the military men are very helpful. He got the military job. At a later date he slipped again. There are many military men nearby, but this time nobody came forward to help him. He was still lying down expecting someone to help him. But none came forward to help him. He was sad. A Military Officer who was watching all this came to him and said, “Now you are in Military. Nobody will help you. You must help yourself”. Saying these words the military officer went away. This person had a great lesson that day.

In the same way, all those who take up to Spirituality, must make their own efforts. There will be no short cuts. They must make their own efforts for their spiritual progress.

**Part time Devotion will not work:** God will take care of all our needs, if we approach Him with Surrender. It is better to surrender than to stay separate from Him. In our daily life, we are ignorant of many things. We have no clarity over many things. We have no clue to many situations. We have half knowledge over many things. Though we are involved in many things, we have practical knowledge over only a few things. When we introspect ourselves, we are unable to express our personal spiritual status. Even in such helpless and hopeless situations, if we approach God, we are taken care of by Him. So develop Faith in God. Never forget God. All those who have Faith in God can be saved. But there is one condition. “Part time devotion will not work”, warns Bhagawan Baba. Without having total Faith in God, the part time devotees will not benefit, says Baba.

**God must be Our First Priority?** All those who follow God under all odds, will reap permanent benefits. Those who enjoy Bliss will never forget God. They will make God a part of their lives to enjoy many such blissful experiences, but those who lead a materialistic life, will not realize this truth.

In this context, Baba’s message made in reference to the Pandavaas must be realized by the entire humanity. Who should be our first priority? Is it God? Is it our Society? Is it the self? If we observe the lives of Great men, their order of priority will be God first, Society next and self last. Ex: Paandavas. In the same way, if we observe the order of priority of selfish men, it will be self first, Society next and God last. Ex: Kauravaas. When Baba gave this message, I felt very happy. All spiritual seekers can introspect themselves and check for their spiritual status on their own and shift their priority from bad to good.

**Knowing our Spiritual Status:** Among us most of us want to know our Spiritual Status. But only God knows about our Spiritual Status. But God warns us that no Spiritual aspirant must know his Spiritual Status. If a Spiritual seeker knows his Spiritual Status, he will develop Ego and thereby will fall back again, warns Baba. In this context, Baba gave this message. The river Ganges will take birth in the Himalayas. The river then flows continuously until it merges in the Ocean – its destination. As the river flows, the water in the river will never know its status, i.e., its position from the Ocean. For instance, the river water may be only a few 100 metres away from the Ocean but still it will have no clue about its locus standing. But God knows about its destination. In the same way, God knows the Spiritual Status of a seeker and guides them as per their status and progress. God gives a good suggestion here. The river waters must always remain with the flow. If the river waters miss this flow, it will fall in a ditch and gather dust. Likewise spiritual seekers must always continue with their efforts and must not go awry.

**Through the 9 modes of Devotion, a Spiritual Seeker can realize his Spiritual Status:** Really God is great. He supplements answers to all our queries and anxieties in a safe way. Baba, through this message, has given an opportunity to the spiritual seekers to realize their Spiritual Status. This message is related to the nine forms of Devotion. Baba has explained these nine modes of Devotion as “Nine Steps of Devotion”. Those who reach the top of these nine steps can Realise God, says Baba. The nine steps which begin with Sravanam will end up with Aatma Nivedanam. The nine steps are as follows.

1. Sravanam (Hearing the Divine Glory)
2. Keerthanam (Singing the Divine Glory)
3. Smaranam (Comtemplating on God)
4. Paada Sevanam (Holding the Holy Feet of the Lord)
5. Vandanam (Offering Salutations to the Lord with Faith)
6. Archanam (Recollecting the Divine Attributes)

7. Daasyam (As a Servant, follow God as our Master)
8. Sakhyam (From the state of a Servant, God promotes us to be His Friend, when we realize His Formless Attributes)
9. Aatma Nivedanam (Surrender to that Formless God)

In this way, Bhagawan Baba gave a Clear Path and a Picture of Spirituality. Where do we stand on this Ladder of our spiritual progress? Knowing this information, every seeker must make amends for his spiritual progress.

**The benefits related to our Birth, our Actions and our Righteousness may not be accrued immediately, but the fruits of Sacrifice can be accrued immediately:** This message was conveyed to the Humanity by Baba, through Ramakatha Rasavahini. After reading this message, I enjoyed extreme Bliss. We perform many acts, but we do not know the outcome of our acts. We will be always pondering about the results of our actions. This message gives clarity to all such situations in a wonderful way and helps us solve many problems by encouraging the attitude of sacrifice in our daily life.

In order to account for this important message, I am narrating a few personal experiences to make you understand better. 1). I rarely expressed anger during my childhood. After realizing that discrimination is lost due to anger, I have given up anger. 2). Once I was called as an innocent guy, by one of my relatives. Initially, my Ego was hurt and I felt very bad for being called 'innocent guy'. Who is innocent? He who is very plain at heart without ego is called innocent. After gaining this Knowledge, i.e., after sacrificing my ignorance, I relished being called innocent. 3). During my childhood my mother used to advocate me that our lives will not proceed as per our wishes, but instead will take its own twists and turns and that with a positive attitude, we must accept the pros and cons of our life. With her guidance, I sacrificed my negative thinking and developed positive thinking. Thus I developed Equanimity towards the dualities of life. 4). My mother taught me another greatest Spiritual Truth by stating that we must aim for the welfare of one and all in the Society. Initially, because of my narrow mindedness my mind has not accepted to her suggestion. It took me some time to accept it. After sacrificing my narrow mindedness, I could realize and relish this Truth. This has greatly enhanced my Bliss.

In all the four experiences, I have not sacrificed any of my material possessions. I have just shed only my ego and ignorance and observed a sea change in my attitude and behavior. What a great lesson for mankind!

**Thiists and Athiists:** All those who are limited to this physical world, will indulge in a dialogue between theists and atheists. All those who follow their Inner Vision will never give scope to this dialogue. After all we are all children of the same God.

Nearly 40 years back, Mr.Narasimhan, Vice Chancellor of the Bangalore University has challenged Baba on this rationalist issue. But Baba has not at all responded to this challenge. If we opt to silence, the world will mistake us as acknowledging defeat. But still Baba maintained silence. Finally, His silence has won all hearts. This rationalistic view will never conclude on a physical plane. Baba observed Patience for all the criticism and thereby taught Patience to all His devotees. Apart from this, He expressed Infinite Love towards all those who criticized Him. After all we all are children of the same God. A few of us have realized this Truth.

Once P.Sundarayya, a great Communist Leader after being impressed by Baba's Service activities visited Puttapparthu to see Baba. He introduced himself to Baba as a "Communist". But Baba

lovingly responded, “Come You Next”. These loving words of Baba had broken all barriers between theists and atheists. Everybody who is in the interview room felt extremely happy over Baba’s loving remarks and felt, “After all we all are His children”.

Nowadays, the rationales with their limited philosophy are distancing themselves from the Philosophy of God. For God, all men are equal i.e. all are His children, i.e. all are theists only. In this context, Baba universalized His message thus, “All those who love his fellow beings are theists, and the rest who do not love are atheists”.

**Soul Power:** Put a ten holed pot on a fire. From each of the ten holes, the fire is emitted. Though there is only one fire inside, because of the ten holes, we see them as ten fires. When we smash this ten holed pot, we will see the actual fire. In the same way our body is a nine holed pot. Deep inside this body there lies the Soul Power, which has manifested in nine different ways. We see with our eyes. We hear with our ears. We smell with our Nose. As long as we have body attachment, we will forget the Soul Power and mistake it with a wrong identity. The moment we separate our body attachment, we shall very soon realize the Soul Power, which is the main source of our being.

**Mind and the Spiritual Heart:** Mind is different from Spiritual Heart. Our Spiritual Heart is the basis of our Mind. As such we must get habituated to working with our Heart rather than our Mind, says Baba. Does that mean that we have nothing to do with our Mind? The answer is yes. The Psychiatrists say that we cannot do a single work without involving our Mind. We must do all our acts involving our Heart, say spiritualists. Who are correct? Spiritualists are correct. The Psychiatrists who are limited to this physical world could study only the Mind, but the Spiritualists could go beyond the Mind and reach the basis of our Mind i.e. the Spiritual Heart.

We all feel that our Mind is the store house of all our thought processes. But the truth is that our Spiritual Heart is the basis of our Mind. With Good thoughts, the mind will feel happy. With bad thoughts, the mind will become sad. So our thought processes are responsible for the happy or sad state of our Mind, which has Heart as its base. Vishaya Vaasanas or bad habits are responsible for the contraction of our Heart. So when we get rid of bad habits from our Spiritual Heart, even bad thoughts will not arise. Such persons devoid of bad thoughts will always live a happy, prosperous and Blissful life, says Baba. By practicing the Human Values we can easily get rid of all our bad habits and thereby bad thoughts.

**Never hand over your Spiritual Heart to your Mind:** We take a lot of care to safe guard the Gold and Diamond ornaments. If we are careless, then thieves will rob them. In the same way, the 18 Divine attributes are the most valuable possessions of a person. All these attributes are safe guarded only in our Heart. But man is erring here, warns Baba. Man is handing over these Divine attributes to his mind. Our mind is like a thief i.e., our impure, unstable and fleeting mind is unable to handle them well and as a result we will lose them soon. During spiritual progress the seekers must heed to this advice.

**Just like our Mind which flows through our Senses, the Divinity flows through the Five Elements:** The Human Body is made up of five elements. It is temporary and will drop dead any moment. The Indweller is permanent. The entire Universe is comprised of only 5 elements. They are the Earth, Water, Fire, Air and the Sky. Earth has 5 attributes. Water has 4 attributes. Fire has 3 attributes. Air has two and the Sky has one attribute. The five attributes of these 5 elements are the Sound, Touch, Form, Taste and Smell. As these attributes get decreased in each element their Power, Speed and the Area will increase.

We are experiencing all the five elements based on their attributes. But we state God as beyond all these five attributes. Just like the Mind which flows through all our Senses, the Divine phenomenon which is beyond these five attributes, will also flow through all the five elements. We cannot realize the Divine Phenomenon which is beyond the comprehension of our mind. If we make a search of these five elements for divinity, we can observe the five elements only, but we cannot realize the Divine phenomenon in them. So such an attempt will prove in vain, cautions Baba. Hence we must never make any attempts to prove God phenomenon. Even though our Mind which has no form is within our experience because of its relation with our Senses, so also will be the unseen Divine Phenomenon which will be connected to the entire space of the Universe, through these five elements. Such a Divine phenomenon, which is beyond the five attributes of the five elements, and beyond the comprehension of our human mind, has been experienced by the great Masters and Seers. The Divine phenomenon has been expressed as Omnipresence, Omnipotence, Omniscience, Omnifarious, etc. We can never realize this Divine Phenomenon with our Mind or with our Sense organs but is possible only with our Spiritual Heart.

**Sense Control:** We have five sense organs and five action organs. Our Mind flows through all these ten organs. Our Eyes, Ears, Nose, Tongue, Skin and action organs are fixed in their places. But our Mind is flowing through all of them and is in contact with them all the while. We feel that our eyes are seeing. We feel that our ears are hearing. But in reality, without the involvement of our Mind, these organs will not work properly. Without observing, we cannot say what we have seen. Without paying attention we cannot say what we have heard. So Mind has an important role to play with our physical senses. Our mind is thus very busy being involved with all these sense organs. When our organs work very hard, they easily get tired. So we expect some rest to our body. Compared to our body and the senses, our mind has a lot more work to do. So our mind too needs some rest, just like our body. But how can we achieve rest or relaxation to our mind? We must understand Lord Krishna's Universal message of Bhagawad Gita. Lord Krishna advised man to work selflessly and with detachment. Only then our thought processes will slow down and will be under control. When our thought processes are under our control, our mind will receive the much needed rest and relaxation. With rest and relaxation, our mind will become more efficient. Such an efficient mind will enable us to overcome the physical limitations, which bind us to this materialistic world.

**Mind, Intelligence, Ego and Chittha:** Baba has given a lot of clarity with regard to spiritual aspects. In Aatma Ramam, Baba stated that our Mind, though a single entity, exists in four states, depending upon the nature of work. When it is involved in the thought processes, it is called the 'Mind'. When it is involved with the Discrimination of our thought processes, it is called 'Intelligence'. When it is possessive in nature, it is called the 'Ego'. And the Still mind without any thought processes is called 'Chittha'.

**Mind and Chittha:** Our Mind works in two ways. One is clean mind and the other is impure mind. Mind must control our Senses. An Impure Mind cannot control the mind. A Pure Mind which controls the senses can pave way for our intelligence. Our mind which is constantly working with our senses will become impure in the course of time. How? Daily we wear clothes to cover our body. The white clothes which we wear will catch dirt in the course of time. We will give these dirty clothes to dhobi for cleaning. We say that the dhobi will make the clothes white. In fact, the clothes are originally white. The dhobi is actually removing the dirt from the clothes.

Coming to the Chittha, it is the pure and stable state of our mind i.e., not involved with our senses. So the word Chittha by default means Purity. We must realize and manifest this Chittha in us.

**Detachment:** If we understand this message of Baba, related to Detachment, Sense Control becomes an easy affair for us. We feel sad, dejected, and detached when our near and dear passes away or when the things we love most were lost forever. This detachment is temporary. This world will not give lasting peace. So what measures we must adopt to attain lasting peace? We all must follow Lord Krishna's message in Bhagawad Gita.

Baba explained this detachment in relation to Sense Organs, to attain lasting Peace and bliss. All the while, we are of the view that we enjoying 'Happiness' from our Sense Organs. But Baba corrected us by saying that we are enjoying 'Bliss' through our Sense Organs. All the while we are of the opinion that the source of our happiness is our sense organs, but Baba clarified by saying that the source of Bliss is the Soul itself. To clarify this stand, Baba gave us a few examples. 1). When you are hungry, taste is immaterial. In order to satisfy your hunger, you are ready to consume any food with great liking. Now your belly is full. Now you are by the side of delicious dishes. Can you consume these dishes anymore now? No. Why? The reason being your happiness is not obtained from the Sense Organs. 2). As long as Purity prevails in things, they are a source of Bliss to us. For example: There is a small child. When we see this innocent child we convey a lot of love towards this child. The reason being this innocent child has no impurities in her mind. But as the same child grows big with time, we cannot convey the same love towards it now. Why? An adult child's mind is more tarnished now. This indicates that we love all those things which are pure. This love is quite natural. And we continue to love all objects as long as there is purity in them. 3). Our Soul is self illumined. To understand this, we need a small briefing. We are totally unconscious when we are in deep sleep. We are semi conscious during dreaming. We are totally conscious during our wakeful state. But our Soul is in a different state called 'Thuriya'. We enjoy Bliss from this thuriya state. You assume that there is light in all these four states. Now, close your eyes tightly. Now you will say that there is darkness all around, even though you are in the wakeful state. But how can you say that there is darkness all around? You have this knowledge from your Soul. This indicates that our Soul is self illumining. 4). You are travelling in a Bus. You are moving forward along with the bus. But what would you say? You will feel that you are not moving but only the bus is moving. 5). Earth is going round the Sun at a very great speed. But are we able to realize the speed or the rotation of the Earth going round the Sun? No. In this Universe all things are relatively in motion. The Bliss we are enjoying through the Sense Organs is also a part of this motion. After having born with this human body, it is quite natural to enjoy Bliss through our sense organs. To enjoy Bliss through our sense organs is no wrong. No religion advocates us from preventing this sensual Bliss. But are we enjoying happiness or Bliss? It is here that we must use our discrimination. We must realize the source of the Bliss and not the medium of Bliss. We are misusing our sense organs and draining our energies. This is not proper. Through this narration, we have learned that we enjoy Bliss through the medium of our Senses, but the fact lies that the Soul is the actual source of the Bliss. This knowledge will promote Sense Control, says Baba. Those who achieved Sense Control in this way can achieve Detachment permanently.

**Five Mothers:** Man is born empty handed and will leave this world empty handed. In this context, why should man lead a Selfish Life? Man must develop Sacrifice to make his life more meaningful. In this world so far many hundreds of millions of men have taken birth. But who are remembered? In this world, how many thousands of kings have ruled their kingdoms? But many among them are remembered today? All those men who led a righteous life and sacrificed themselves for the welfare of the Society are the only ones we remember today. The rest of them have been perished in the sands of time. In this context, this topic of Five Mothers will eternally guide us to follow our Traditions and Customs with a sacrificial attitude towards our Society.

We all have five mothers. They are 1) Our Physical Mother, 2) Cow, 3) Our Motherland, 4) Our Mother Earth and 5) Our Veda Matha. We all must heed to the message of all our five mothers to promote peace, harmony and welfare in our Society.

Our physical mother who gives birth to us takes care of our Sustenance and maintenance. She loves us with selfless attitude. She then imparts education to us to have a strong foundation for us. Lord Rama advises Humanity that our parents are our Living Gods. Even if our parents are bad, we must still obey and respect them for the love they have showered during our childhood, says Rama. Thus we must always remain grateful to our parents.

The message of the Cow is very important. The colour of the Cows may be different, but the milk is same. Man is creating differences between men in the name of Caste, Colour, Creed, Race and Religion. This is not proper. Man belongs to one race, and that is Humanity.

We are indebted to our Motherland in many ways. Those who sacrifice their lives for the sake of their motherland are Liberated, says Baba. We all must have respect to our Motherland and make efforts for its welfare. We all must aspire for the all round development of our Motherland, and achieve it. We must not disintegrate our Motherland with selfish purposes. "How can I reveal my sincerity towards my Motherland?" a devotee asked Baba. "By the continuous practice of five human values, we can pay our due respects to our Motherland", replied Baba.

This Mother Earth is carrying all of us. The people of this Universe have only one planet to live. This Earth sustains and maintains all of us with its natural resources. Hence, we all must develop a broad mind to aim for the welfare of Humanity, in general. Thus our Mother Earth guides us to forget all our limitations and differences to lead a peaceful and prosperous life.

The Culture of India is very magnanimous. Our Vedas are a proof for it. These Vedas are delivered by the God Almighty. Bhagawan Baba addresses us as 'Bangaru', or as "Embodiments of Divine Souls, or as Embodiments of Love". Our Vedas teach us that all men are equal and they are the embodiments of the Divine Soul. Man must follow and practice the Vedas to realize his innate Divinity and pay his due respects to God for this wonderful human birth.

**The Disorders of our Society:** We must have a healthy society. But our Society has seven disorders, says Baba. God is not a single entity. He is a plural entity. God loves a collective effort rather than individual effort. We must acquire Divine Knowledge to make a Spiritual march from 'I' to 'We'. We all must treat the seven disorders of our Society as our individual lapses and rectify them. Only then the disorders of our Society will be taken care of. Bhagawan Baba has conveyed a lot of Knowledge to the Humanity. We all must follow His Universal message. In this way, we can pay our dues back to our Society and thereby to God. The seven disorders of our Society as envisaged by Bhagawan Baba are as follows:

1. Business without Morals
2. Politics without Sincerity
3. Education without Character
4. Gaining Riches without Effort
5. Devotion without Faith
6. Culture without Sacrifice
7. Development without Unity

**We can achieve Universal Peace only through our Spirituality:** Mr. Naani Palkhiwala, the greatest Indian Economist, has advised that man will achieve Universal Peace through Spirituality alone and not through his intellect.

In the good old days Rama-Ravana war, Mahabharat war, etc were fought to establish peace in the world. The wars which were fought for world peace has a limited time span. Two World Wars were fought for a few years each, but still these world wars have indirectly served the purpose of world peace. But in recent years, the present day wars are turning out to be unrighteous wars. These unrighteous wars have no time span. The present day wars cause a lot of loss to property and lives. The present day man is not in a position to appreciate these unrighteous wars. The rulers of the land must realize this and make enough roads to establish world peace.

Nowadays, internal disturbances are gaining ground. These are unrighteous wars. They are proving more dangerous than the physical wars fought over a limited span in the past. Nowadays there are differences within a house, in a street, in a village, in a town, in a city, in a state and in a country. In this way, each and every country is suffering lot of damage through these internal wars. These internal wars prove as a lot of menace to our Society. Man has no peace in such a Society. When man sacrifices his ego, his desires, the six sins from his mind, and the bad habits that filled his heart, only then he can aim for world peace and achieve it, says Baba.

Bhagawan Baba advised the Humanity that Universal Peace can be established only through Spirituality and it cannot be achieved by any Government through its Rules and Regulations. We all must heed to this loving warning of Baba.

We are born humans. We have Divine origin. As such we have inherited the Divine attributes from God. We have two options before us. Unable to realise our Divine origin, man is leading a worldly life to always remain in a limited state. Technically as long as man is in a finite limited state he must be reborn again. Realisizing this truth, we can opt for a spiritual path to realize our latent infinite energies, to progress from a limited state to an infinite state, thereby achieving the purpose of our life and thus sanctifying our lives to attain eternal Bliss.

AUM SRI SAIRAM

## 21. IN ENGLISH PUTTAPARTHI MEANS 'PUT-APART-I'

In 1985, Bhagawan Baba's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations have been held in a grand manner. On this eve, Bhagawan Baba in His discourse has told that He desires to make a few changes in the Sarva Dharma symbols representation. After hearing this from Baba, I started contemplating on this aspect. Bhagawan Baba has presented the Religious symbols in a most amicable way. I could not understand the need for the modifications. I felt uneasy for these remarks and it is He who knows my uneasiness.

In 1987 Guru Poornima, I have started writing a religious book, 'The Timebound Sparks, Coincidences and Responses from the Divinity' and continued it till Sivarathri, 1988. The summary of this book depicts the spiritual progress of man from a finite to an infinite state. I want to express the contents of the book through a Pictorial representation on the title page. On Sivarathri, 1988 Sri Sathya Sai Exhibition was arranged in the holy premises of Sivam, Hyderabad. As I was going through the Sarva Dharma Symbols in this Exhibition, the much needed spark was ignited in my mind. I was on the lookout of a picture for my book for nearly two months. Once the spark was ignited in my mind, I spent nearly one month without sleep contemplating on the various states of the spiritual progress. The title page has been designed based on these thought processes on Sarva Dharma symbols.

I shall briefly sum up the meanings of the five symbols and the pictorial representation here.

- 1) Aum represents the all pervading Divinity as Primordial Sound Aum.
- 2) The Fire symbol represents that man must burn out his ignorance and sin in the Fire of Wisdom.
- 3) The Wheel represents the law of Cause and Effect.
- 4) The Crescent and the Moon represents the need for the Stability of the Body and the Mind for the Spiritual Progress of Man.
- 5) The Cross symbolizes man the need to reduce/cut his ego for his spiritual uplift. Every man needs the symbolic messages of all these religions for his spiritual progress. He must take the message of all these religious symbols into his heart. He must never consider that these messages belong to different religions and are not applicable to him. When we observe carefully, modifications are possible only in one symbol i.e. Cross. CROSS REPRESENTS MAN. MAN IS DIVINE. MAN'S GOAL MUST BE TO REALISE HIS TRUE SELF. MAN MUST PROGRESS SPIRITUALLY TO REALISE HIS TRUE SELF.

Man's spiritual progress from finite to infinite states has been established through pictorial representation in five states. Of the five states, two states represent the finite states and the remaining three states represent the infinite states. Of these five states, the first four states are attempted based on my experience.

In 1997, I made an attempt to publish two items from the book written in 1987-88. They are 1) The pictorial representation given on this title page and 2) Explained the Formless attributes of the Lord like Omnipresence, Omnipotence and Omniscience through the formula  $E=MC^2$ . I described these two items with the title "Endharo Mahaanu Baavulu Andhariki Vandanamulu" and got the book released in 1997.

There must be an authority to accept this symbolic representation. Who can be that? He is Bhagawan Baba Himself. After completing this book, I went to Puttaparthi and shown it to Bhagawan Baba. Baba's eyes fell on this book. I was satisfied with Baba's Omniscient looks. "This book is

attempted to make everybody think about spirituality”, saying so, Mr Sanyasi Naidu, Ex-Zonal convener of Kothapeta and J.Suman Babu, author of some very popular books on Sai Baba, has suggested me that the book will be energized by the touch and Blessings of Bhagawan Baba. On their advice, I went to Puttaparthi in April, 1997 and performed one week service in the Super Speciality Hospital there. At that time, Bhagawan Baba was in Kodai Kanal. After doing service, I went to Kodai Kanal for His Paada Namaskaar along with another 30 women sevadals who did service in the Super Speciality Hospital. On the same day after reaching Kodai Kanal, Bhagawan Baba was gracious enough to grant His Paada Namaskaar to all of us. As Baba approached me to grant His paada Namaskaar, I took His Paada Namaskaar and requested Baba to Acknowledge and Bless the Book. Baba smilingly responded “Very Happy” and placed His Infinite Omnipotent Hand over the book and blessed it. Exactly after one hour, while returning back, Bhagawan Baba seeing me with a very gracious smile raised both His Hands and blessed me. For showering His Infinite Grace in this way, I am ever grateful to Bhagawan Baba.

When I gave that book to Suman Babu in 1997 to review the contents and make necessary corrections, he accepted happily. He completed his job and conveyed his best wishes to me by stating that the contents of the book will be quite handy to the spiritual seekers. After conveying his best wishes to me, Suman Babu asked me to convey a message of Bhagawan Baba through my book. The English meaning of PUTTAPARTHI conveys an infinite and compassionate message. The English word “Puttaparthi” can be split into 3 words. They are “Put Apart I”. The symbol CROSS conveys the universal message that man must cut across his ego in order to make spiritual progress. The pictorial representation of the title page of this book conveyed the same message. Under the context what can I assume regarding Suman Babu’s message? Can I assume it as Suman Babu’s message or as Bhagawan Baba’s message to the readers through Suman Babu?

Bhagawan Baba, in 1985 has stated for modifications in the Sarva Dharma symbol. I humbly feel that Bhagawan Baba has brought about these changes through me.

Om Sri Sai Ram

# 60 ALPHABETS OF SPIRITUALITY

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## MY PLEA

After realizing the Formless Attributes of the Lord, I have experienced a good number of Spiritual truths. But this Eternal Truth is beyond the reach of our senses and our mind. How can we bring such a phenomenon to a common man's understanding? Explaining the phenomenon of Devotional Equanimity (Bhakthi samathwam), taking our 'shadow' as a parameter, Bhagawan Baba has explained the characteristics of Our Soul, as expressed by Lord Krishna in Bhagawad Gita. In this way, how is it possible to explain the Formless Attributes of Our Lord? For my sincere divine fervor, I have grasped the Einstein formula i.e.  $E=MC^2$ , Wherein I could grasp a few of Lord's Formless attributes in it -- E the Omnipotence, M the Omnipresence and C the Omniscience. Through my book 'Endharo Mahanubhavulu Andhariki Vandhanamulu' I have explained two such truths. They are 1.  $E=MC^2$  & 2. I have shown the finite and infinite states of a man's Spiritual progress in 5 states with a Symbolic representation (The picture on this book's title cover).

Having expressed the unseen Divine phenomenon in two ways, I was still not satisfied as it is not easily understood by a common man. I want to bring the unseen Divine to the level of a common man's easy understanding. This desire in me grew strong in me. During this time Mr.Vardhana Rao conveyed and requested me to write a book on spirituality, suggesting me that the contents must be simple enough for every common man's easy understanding. I have received this message 'as an assignment from our lord' and immediately conveyed my acceptance. But spirituality is an infinite ocean. Where to start? What to write? How to start? I again prayed ardently to our Dear Lord to show me the way. By His Grace I have received a direction."There are many languages in this world. Every language has alphabets of its own. Attempt the Alphabets for the present Spiritual Ocean". With Baba's blessings this spiritual book has derived its contexts from Baba's messages.

In the days to come "This entire world will become an abode of peace" prophesied Bhagawan Baba. In the days to come, "Spirituality will gain ground and occupy every inch of this universe", Baba created confidence among Humanity. In this context, with an optimistic view, I opine that the contents of this book will serve as Spiritual Alphabets to one and all.

In this context let us remember what Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa has taught to the humanity. After completing the education, we know that everyone will settle down in their lives with a job. On the same lines we must receive Paramahansa's message here. Paramahansa stated that all men and women can marry and lead a family life after God Realization. What does this message mean to us? This message means that God Realization is an easy process and can be achieved very easily at an early stage, i.e. before marriage. This states that if only we learn the fundamentals of spirituality, we can achieve spiritual goals quickly.

In the present day world, Science and Technology has developed leaps and bounds. But man still is not in a position to avail even 50% of the available natural resources (God given resources to man).What can be the possible reason for this lapse? Man is lagging way behind in terms of Spirituality. Worldly knowledge may differ but spiritual knowledge will be common to the entire Humanity. Hence the entire Humanity must come close with a unified effort on a single spiritual platform to make optimum usage of God given resources.

Spirituality is an independent effort. Only in the medium of Spirituality, man can make a progress from a finite state to an infinite state.

“If man has no death, what will be his status? He will neither develop love towards himself nor for his fellow beings around. If all the objects in this world have permanent existence what will be the situation of man? He will not develop love towards the worldly objects” says Baba. From this love less situation, see how God guides the humanity. Just by implementing this Death Phenomenon and the Fleeting Nature of the worldly objects, observe how the Supreme Lord initiates Love towards the objects of His Creation? “All that is visible in this materialistic world has temporary existence”. He placed us in a situation where we love the World and its objects which are SEEN but has a temporary existence. How long will man cherish this temporary phase? At this juncture man’s attention must be directed towards God, the abode of permanent bliss. The spiritual path is not difficult. I humbly submit that the spiritual alphabets will guide man’s progress from a finite state to an infinite state to realize the UNSEEN CREATOR OF THIS UNIVERSE.

While presenting this book, I have personalized some contents, in order to make the readers understand better. In this regard, I have received a few suggestions to avoid my personal briefings. Following their suggestions I have generalized the contents to the extent possible, but could not do so throughout the text. If I generalize the entire contents, I felt that this book will fail to make an impact on the readers. The contents deal with the visible and the invisible, the finite and the infinite, the temporary and the permanent aspects and hence I felt that a few personal briefings will clarify such things better.

There are many paths prescribed in spirituality. The readers may get accustomed to one such path over the years. They may feel that their path is not mentioned in this book. For example, the Hindus feel that the Astanga yoga path is an efficient path for spirituality. It involves 8 steps. They are Yama, Niyama, Aasana, Praanayaama, Prathyahaara, Dhaarana, Dhyaana and Samaadhi. This Astanga Yoga path can be treated as a part of 6 virtues of the mind. To be precise they can be treated as a part of ‘Uparathi’ – one of the six virtues of the mind. Similarly other spiritual paths can be taken care of.

## ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

I convey my loving Gratitude to our Lord. If but for His support and Guidance, I could not have attempted and completed this book. I convey my heartfelt Gratitude to our loving Lord, as after completing the book I have realized that the contents of this book have crossed all barriers of caste, creed, color, race and religion.

Spirituality is an infinite entity. How to start this book? By His Grace a small base was formed to explain things. With that small base the contents of this book has been attempted.

English language has 26 Alphabets. Using these 26 Alphabets we form a number of words. With the combination of words we form a sentence; with a group of sentences we form a paragraph. With a group of paragraphs we form a lesson and finally a book is compiled with a number of lessons. In this way, there are innumerable books available in English and other languages.

Working on these lines, one can learn the 60 aspects (Spiritual Alphabets), explore the infinite Ocean of spirituality, and realize for themselves the infinite bliss involved in it. One must observe the flow of the contents described in this book. In a simple way, all the 60 spiritual Alphabets have been elucidated. At the end , in a summary, the Spiritual Alphabets were shown to form a word(regarding Righteousness), using spiritual words a sentence( 9 Forms of Devotion) was formed, using spiritual sentences a Paragraph (information regarding 'Action')was formed, using spiritual Paragraphs a lesson ( 'WATCH')was formed , and finally using spiritual lessons a book (LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL, HELP EVER, HURT NEVER)was completed. After learning the alphabets, what we will do? We will practice the alphabets. This practice has been explained through the chapters 'The exercise for the Mind' and 'The exercise for our Spiritual Heart'.

Generally we can attempt one work at a time with our mind. But when our mind is pure and our spiritual heart is broad, we can attempt more works simultaneously and get them done. Man can really work wonders with spirituality.

God has infinite love for Humanity. Man must realize that it is God who really helps man in all possible ways. So it is man's duty to express his Gratitude to our loving God.

*K.E.S.VIVEKANANDA REDDY*

## FOREWORD

Sairam!

Sri Sathya Sai Service Organizations, Ex State President and the present All India Spiritual Co-ordinator, Dr.Anjanaiah on one occasion while addressing the East Godavari Volunteers suggested the then East Godavari Service Co-ordinator late Mr.G.V.G.Krishna Murthy that East Godavari volunteers, who are very good in service, must possess some theoretical spiritual knowledge to make a steady progress in their life. Mr.G.V.G.Krishna Murthy has conveyed the message to me and asked me to do the needful. Immediately the author came to my reckoning who has not only clarity on spiritual aspects but also is a practical man. I requested the author to write a simple book on spirituality so that it can be understood by even a common man. The author has accepted my suggestion, and after submitting to the Almighty he has attempted and compiled the “60 Alphabets of Spirituality”.

We all are familiar with the 60 Alphabets of Spirituality, but we are unaware of the relation that exists between these 60 alphabets. God has given man The Body, The Mind, The Intelligences and The Spiritual Heart. The 60 Alphabets are related to these four entities. When we realize the relation that exists between these Alphabets and the four entities, then we will have a lot of clarity over Spirituality. In this context, I state and wish that this book will serve as a Guide to all spiritual seekers.

The author has expressed that this book is compiled by the Grace and Blessings of our Lord. This is a Gift of Surrender to the author. The author is ideal with his simple living habits, punctuality, fearlessness and simple thinking. The author is pure in mind and broad at heart and leads a spiritual life. I sincerely pray our Supreme Lord to bless the author to enable him to write a few more books on spirituality to guide men like me.

A loving compatriot

M.P.Vardhana Rao

# 1. 60 ALPHABETS OF SPIRITUALITY

Right from the age of 5 or 6, when I just realized my senses, I had one strong desire, 'The desire to see God'. Very few among us realize the need and the significance of this desire. But I can say for sure, that for possessing this desire, I am indeed lucky. How can I say that? I had many spiritual experiences. With these spiritual experiences I am in bliss - in the past, in the present and in the days to come.

What is the significance of this desire to see God? This one desire will bring out the latent best credentials of an individual. I have learnt a lot of good things from the elders and without any delay I used to put them into practice. Why this hurry? "I want to see God as early as possible". I have not only obeyed the words of our elders, but also voluntarily utilized my intelligences to optimum use. In every man the five human values like Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non violence are present in latent state. It is righteousness which bears us, says Baba. In the beginning I used to feel that righteousness is a set of rules. With Baba's message I very soon realized and rectified this error. To be frank, I realized most of the latent Divine attributes on my own through practice. But they are personal experiences. Even though I enjoyed bliss from these experiences, I could not reveal them to the outsiders. Why? The reason being, the spiritual experiences are not easily understood by others. There exists lack of clarity while communication or in understanding. Under the circumstances the doubts remain unresolved. As a result the speaker and the listener remain unsatisfied with their effort. Hence I never revealed my spiritual experiences to others. It is not possible to explain the beauty of any language to those who have not learned the alphabets.

Experiencing this infinite bliss, in a selfless way, I want to bring clarity to Spirituality. Even the experienced individuals lack clarity and hence are unable to explain the spirituality to others around convincingly. It is here that they must pray God to help them clarify things. Only after clarity, it becomes possible to explain the spirituality to others. In my case, I gained clarity over spirituality by reading Bhagawan Baba's messages for all my spiritual experiences. It is God who gave the finishing touches to my spirituality by clarifying a lot of issues. With this clarity my bliss improved many fold.

As time passed on I have gained clarity over many spiritual aspects. With this clarity over spirituality I was preparing myself to write a book on spirituality with the title, "Spirituality made easy". But when and how to begin this book? With my ardent prayers, I have made a start. And the rest was taken care of Him.

My aim in writing this book is to bring spirituality to the close Quarters of one and all. What is spirituality? "Spirituality means to realize our mistakes on our own, rectify them and not to repeat them again" says Baba. For correcting my lapses and not repeating them again, the bliss I enjoyed has multiplied. Such bliss is Eternal.

We must realize our lapses on our own. This is the improvement i.e. Sanskar. Our Indian traditions and culture has a lot of significance. All those who follow it will be automatically improved. Iron when it is present in the ore form has a low price. But the same iron when transformed into some object, will carry an enhanced price. In the same way man must improve from a finite state to an infinite state through transformation, to enjoy infinite bliss from our Master. On a physical plain man is satisfied with temporary happiness, but on spiritual grounds, man longs for permanent bliss.

Among God's creation Human birth is the most precious. To be born as a human is a rare opportunity. Human Birth is God's boon to man. God blessed man with intelligence. Animals lack

this intelligence. What if man fails to utilize his Intelligences? His Human Birth will be wasted and his birth can be compared to that of an animal.

Why these intelligences are given to man by God? With these intelligences man can realize God – the infinite entity. The formless, infinite and eternal attributes of the Lord can be realized with the help of these intelligences. Such an individual will pay gratitude to the Lord for this priceless human birth and aspire for Divine proximity.

God has gifted man with a body, a mind, intelligences and the spiritual heart. Has anybody questioned why God has given these four entities to man? No. Man's body and mind are limited in nature. They will deal with the objective world. They are limited in nature. But the Intelligences and the spiritual heart are meant to realize the infinite, unseen and the Divine attributes of our Lord. **OUR LORD! YES. THERE IS ONLY ONE LORD FOR THE ENTIRE HUMANITY.**

Having been born with a physical body, on this physical platform such as this materialistic world, how is it possible to make an effort for that unseen entity, God? This remains challenging and perplexing question to all of us. God had never told us to move away from this materialistic world. Man must achieve both physical and spiritual progress. This body is a tool. When this tool is in a good condition, we must achieve our spiritual goals. With time this body will become weak and drops dead at old age. All great men advise us to follow both the physical and spiritual needs from a young age. We see a bird. It has two wings. It cannot fly with one wing. Taking a lesson from the bird, man must make both efforts for his progress from a finite to an infinite state. But what is the status of man today? Today man is neglecting spirituality. This is the biggest lapse. He must realize this lapse.

**The six pre-requisites for spirituality:** Spirituality means to realize our mistakes on our own and not to repeat them again. In order for a man to realize his own mistakes he must possess six qualities, says Baba. They are 1.Good behavior, 2.Intelligence, 3.Always follow truth, 4.Discipline, 5.Devotion and 6.Duty. Those who possess these six qualities will easily make amends in spirituality. Hence everyone must abide to these six qualities. Those who lack these six qualities or any of these six qualities cannot achieve spiritual progress. They carry with them their weaknesses.

We commonly hear that many among us will say that they are making a lot of spiritual efforts since a long time, but without any progress. Not only this, they compare their spirituality with others and say, that others have started their spiritual efforts recently but have gained immense God's grace, where as they lacked God's grace in spite of severe efforts. Hence everyone, who desire to make amends in Spirituality must introspect themselves for these six qualities. If they lack any of these six pre-requisites, they must get habituated to them as early as possible. It is not proper to lament over other's spiritual progress.

Everyone feels that Spirituality is an infinite Ocean. This is not their fault. In today's materialistic World, man unable to realize the truth, is lying in doldrums. "For a single question there seem many answers in today's spirituality. This is not proper". Today, everyone is speaking spirituality without practice. As a result the spiritual seekers are failing miserably in their efforts. For their failed efforts, they are upset and distancing themselves from spirituality. Sometimes they are changing their spiritual Masters. There are some, who without making any effort will frequently change their spiritual Masters. All such efforts will not yield positive results. Today man want quick results but without applying any efforts.

In the medium of spirituality man must not face such doldrums. In the medium of spirituality, "there will be only one answer for a specific query". Man must realize such spiritual teachers and approach them for their spiritual uplift and progress. In the present day, Bhagawan Baba is one such

spiritual Master. This book was compiled based on Baba's messages only, which have universal application. With such guidance spiritual progress will be an easy task.

As long as the queries remain impersonal, every query will carry a stable answer in the field of spirituality. Even with the passage of time, these answers will remain stable forever. As long as there is a stable answer for a specific query, spirituality will be an easy affair. All spiritual aspirants must realize this truth and seek God's help for such guidance.

My desire to see God has taken control and changed the course of my life. It is this desire which has led me from the front both on the physical front and in the spiritual arena. It is really astonishing and blissful to realize the way this desire directs the course of its progress. But before realizing the bliss, every man must face Rama's exile. This is part of life in this physical course of things. This is the greatest mystery of life. Only after 14 years of exile, Rama was coronated to the throne of Ayodhya. During this period of man's exile God will remain with us and guide us. So don't find short cuts or get frightened from this exile but instead face it boldly. Such a life is thrilling and enthralling.

To speak on physical lines, my mother is my first spiritual teacher. She taught me the English, Telugu and Hindi alphabets. By the time I was in my first class I used to read, write and speak these three languages. In school I was class first most of the time. I am good in games and behavior as well. I got married to a good girl even before I completed my education. It was an arranged marriage by our elders. I completed my PG in Dairy Chemistry. It was a professional degree and I must get a job immediately. But owing to the unexpected developments at that time, I could not get a job. Dasaratha announced Rama's Coronation. But what followed is Rama's exile. In my life too, the same thing was repeated. Very easily I completed my M.Sc. Thereafter my life train was derailed and it took nearly 12 years to be back on its rails. Rama stood for Righteousness during his 14 years exile. "In the present day society man is aiming to amass wealth instead of Righteousness" says Baba. I am good in studies, games, health, intellect and good behavior, but still I could not settle down in my life. I lamented that my life is being wasted. I prayed to our Lord - with tears rolling from my eyes without my knowledge. Pat came the reply from my Indweller. "If everybody starts earning, then who will take care of the society?" With this Indweller's reply my tears have turned into tears of joy. I enjoyed infinite bliss. I realized that God is blending me as His Tool for the cause of the society. I surrendered at His feet. In fact I surrendered at His Feet a long back. It is He, who is guiding me since then. My financial status is so so. In the physical world, I tried to hold on to Gold, but it transformed into mud (failures). And in the spiritual arena, I started my efforts with mud, which transformed into Gold. Thus life is a mystery - a great unfolded mystery.

We must rectify our lapses. We must improve spiritually. All spiritual giants will claim that TIME is the best teacher ever. This Transformation seems a difficult process, on physical grounds. "There is no happiness in comforts. In fact happiness lies in effort", says Baba. To reach God's proximity, Kunthi always entertained hardships. It is God who showers more love, than the rest. 'Bartha' in sanskrit means he who bears us. Hence it is God, who bears all our responsibility. God is Righteous personified. Hence God expects all of us to follow Righteousness. We all feel that in the present day society, it is very difficult to follow Righteousness. But, Baba claimed, 'In any Era Righteousness can be very easily implemented'.

Who can easily follow and implement Righteousness? He who implements the six principles of Spirituality can very easily implement Righteousness too. In this context, by the Grace of God, a clear picture was formed in relation to 60 aspects (Alphabets) of Spirituality.

Let us all observe and examine these Spiritual Alphabets. Before going through them, let's learn them in a glance.

There are six pre-requisites for Spirituality. They are 1. Good behavior, 2.Intelligence, 3.Always Follow Truth, 4.Discipline, 5.Devotion and 6.Duty.

Coming to Intelligence, Intelligence is of 11 types. They are 1.Plain Intelligence, 2. Discriminative Intelligence, 3.Common Intelligence, 4.Unbiased Intelligence, 5.Stable Intelligence, 6.Selfless intelligence, 7.Decision Making Intelligence, 8.Analytical or Problem Solving Intelligence, 9.Creative Intelligence, 10.Farmer's Intelligence and 11.Matured Intelligence.

Coming to Mind, it has three aspects. They are the impurities of the Mind, attributes of the mind and the six good qualities strengthening the Mind. 1. The 6 impurities of the Mind are 1.Desires, 2.Anger, 3.Miserliness, 4.Attraction, 5.Pride and 6.Jealousy. The four attributes of the mind are 1.Speed, 2.Instability, 3.Wavering nature and 4.Power. The six good qualities which strengthen the mind are 1.Inward Path, 2.Sense Control, 3.Taking the mind towards Divine Proximity, 4.Taming the mind beyond dualities, 5.Showing interest towards good things of life and 6.Acknowledging the response from our indweller.

And coming to the spiritual heart, we have to learn 3 aspects. They are 1.The 4 bad habits which condense the spiritual heart, 2.The 5 human values which expand the spiritual heart and 3.The 18 Divine qualities in man. The four habits which condense our spiritual heart are 1.Violence, 2.Ill treating the weak and the downtrodden, 3.Comparing ourselves with others and 4.To defend one's own actions. The 5 human values which broaden our spiritual heart are 1.Truth, 2.Righteousness, 3.Peace, 4.Love and 5.Non Violence. On constant practice of these 5 human values 18 Divine attributes are manifested in man. They are 1.For constantly following Truth the 4 divine qualities that manifest in man are a).Fearlessness, b).Courage c).Humility and d).Detachment. 2. Righteousness promotes a).Duty, b).Discipline, c).Sense Control, d).Patience and e).Perseverance. 3).Peace promotes a).Self Satisfaction, b).Cheerfulness and c).Equanimity. 4). Love promotes a).Kindness, b).Forbearance, c).Service and d).Sacrifice. 5).Non-violence promotes a).Compassion and 2).Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man.

### **The six Pre-Requisites of Spirituality:**

1) **Good Behavior:** Possessing Good thoughts, Words and actions is Good Behavior. This is also referred to as unity of thought, Word and deed. This is also known as Penance. The Expression of the Word, the thought process of mind and the action in deed must reflect only one thing. All great men possessed such integrity, says Baba.

Let me analyze my lapses. Right from my childhood I am habituated to good deeds. I was afraid of attempting bad deeds. The reason being, I am afraid of moving away from God. I used to speak politely. I always spoke truth. If I speak lies, God will keep me away. I never hurt anybody with my words. So in this way even my words were always good. For most of the time, even my thoughts were good. But once in a while, I used to entertain bad thoughts. At that young age, I used to feel that nobody will realize my thoughts. But God is Omniscient. He used to reflect my bad thoughts and helped me rectify them. God wants purity. He responds to everyone irrespective of the age. From Mahatma Gandhi's lesson in school days, I realized that man must free his mind from bad thoughts too, as a part of Non Violence. The omniscient Lord knows all our inner thoughts. He guides and helps us rectify our inner lapses. He is our common Spiritual Teacher. It is not easy to rectify the lapses of our thought processes. Under such circumstances we must take God's help. "If a girl wants to learn cooking, she must make friendship with her mother in the kitchen before learning cooking from her. In the same way, all spiritual aspirants must pray God to receive His help for their progress", says Baba. Right from a very young age, I got habituated to chanting Rama's name. This chanting of Lord's name has easily helped me control my bad thoughts. Today I never hate anybody or find faults with others. As I hate none, I never entertain bad thoughts too. This is my purity.

**2. Intelligence:** God's boon to man is his Intelligence. Right from young age, I utilized all my intelligences and voluntarily got habituated to all good things of life. I can say that I had no lapses in relation to my Intelligences.

First of all we must learn that Intellect is different from Intelligence. Intellect is a mind game. We must not become a prey to this intellect. But instead we must get habituated to the process of Intelligence. Intellect works within the range of our physical senses whereas the Intelligence works beyond our senses.

“Our Mind will materialize both good and bad thoughts. We must transfer all these thoughts from our Mind to our Intelligence. Our Intelligence will analyze the status of the thought as good or bad. After this discrimination, we must practice the Good things, leaving aside the bad“, says Baba. Learning this knowledge, I felt very happy as I followed this practice voluntarily from my childhood.

In the beginning, I used to feel that Intelligence is just one single entity. But after realizing that our Intelligences will work in 11 different ways, I enjoyed extreme Bliss for many days. I practiced all the 11 types of Intelligences from my childhood but without their knowledge.

Let us learn the 11 types of Intelligences as taught by BABA. They are

**a) Pure Intelligence:** A newly born baby is very innocent. His mind is very pure. These young children do not entertain any bad traits in them. It is this pure intelligence which is capable of extracting the Divine response spontaneously.

**b) Discriminative Intelligence:** It helps us discriminate between Good and bad.

**c) Common Intelligence:** In our society we are aware of many things. Among these things, what to adopt and what to be left out, will be realized with this common Intelligence.

**d) Unbiased Intelligence:** He is my person, so he must be judged favorably. The other person does not belong to me so he must be judged unfavorably. Not showing any biasedness while giving Judgement is unbiased Intelligence.

**e) Selfless Intelligence:** To attempt a given work selflessly and with detachment is selfless Intelligence.

**f) Stable intelligence:** We must make stable decisions. This means that when we take a good decision, we must fix to it and not change it very often.

**g) Decision Making Intelligence:** We must not depend upon others for decision making. We must maintain our individuality while taking decisions. In the present day society 95% men are unable to make their own decisions, says Baba. It is a blessing to make good decisions on our own.

**h) Analytical Intelligence:** In our daily life, we face many problems. With the help of Analytical Intelligence, we solve these problems.

**i) Creative Intelligence:** To achieve impossible tasks, God blessed man with Creative Intelligence. So using this Creative Intelligence man can achieve any task.

**j) Farmer's Intelligence:** A farmer after sowing seeds will remove the unwanted weeds from his land. Likewise, using this farmer's intelligence, we must leave aside the bad traits and promote good in us.

**k) Matured Intelligence:** He who practices all the above ten intelligences will surrender at the lotus feet of God. Only with the above ten intelligences, this Matured Intelligence will be manifested in us.

**3. Always Follow Truth:** Truth is God. We must always follow truth. Great men always followed Truth. Let's observe 'Always' in this statement. God is unseen. But we are supposed to follow Him 'always'. How many among us have faith enough to rely always on that unseen God? If there is God we might not have faced such a problem? Thinking on these lines, we take our decision (which is always a wrong decision). At a later date we feel sorry and lament at our decision. Without indulging in our self decision, when we 'always' rely on God, we shall reap rich benefits in the end. We will realize how the problem was solved. We will realize how the unseen God has helped us. The Bliss involved for such a commitment is long lasting. "God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnifarious". With these infinite attributes nothing is impossible to God. To be frank by lacking faith, it is we who stand inefficient before Him. Mahatma Gandhi named his autobiography as, 'My Experiments with Truth'. Why so? He experienced God (Truth) in all his actions. Man is mortal but Truth is Eternal. Irrespective of our faith, the fact remains that God will be with us in all our actions.

We must, therefore, Always Follow Truth. If you say "I commit mistakes only once in a while", God is not satisfied with your effort. "In order to enjoy the eternal bliss man must achieve 100% spirituality in all his deeds" says Baba.

In this regard I had a lapse during my childhood. I was very kind towards everyone and behaved as if I had no anger. I used to feel that I never get angry, but if I get angry I will be uncontrollable. I am enjoying my ego here due to my ignorance. Our Lord is Omniscient. He is there to correct all those who rely on Him. He is always on the job to correct His followers. When I was around 12 years, I learned that with anger man will lose his discrimination and behave like a beast. After realizing this Truth, I realized, "As long as I am normal, I will behave like a man, but if I get angry, I will behave like an animal". After this realization, at that young age, using my intelligences I voluntarily controlled my occasional anger. After overcoming this one lapse, I developed many finer points in life. To feel false prestige is a lapse related to our ego. When we control our ego, even our anger will be controlled. In this way, by controlling our ego, we will rectify most of our individual lapses and there by attain Spiritual Progress. This is how our elders guide us with a lot of love.

**4. DISCIPLINE:** "Irrespective of a person, time, place and deed, in order to achieve success, Discipline is a must" says Baba. But this Discipline in the initial stages will be felt as a burden by most of us. Once the utility value (Importance) of this discipline is realized, then it will be no more felt as a burden, says Baba. Everybody thus needs Discipline to achieve success and achieve good results in life. Under the circumstances can anybody achieve success without discipline? Hence discipline must be incorporated in all spheres of human involvement.

We have a farmer. He cultivates Snake-gourd plants in his farm. The plants started yielding snake guards. What will the farmer do? He will tie a stone at the end of each snake gourd. Why? With the burden of this stone, the snake-gourd will grow straight. As the snake-gourd grows in size, even the burden of the stone is proportionally increased.

**5. DEVOTION:** God has immense love towards all creatures of His creation. He shares His Love towards all. But man is unable to realize this unconditional God's Love. Why? God's love becomes a part of our life, and we will fail to realize His Divine Love with our finite love.

Why do we need Devotion? What is the use of Devotion? Baba asked these questions and gave a fitting reply. All those who realized God through His formless attributes will always abide to good behavior in their life. They will strictly follow Good under all circumstances. They practice unity of thought, word and deed. Devotion helps man to hold on to this integrity of thought, word and deed under all odds.

How Devotion improves our Personality? We all know that the entire resources of this Universe belong to God. All those who realize this truth, will become a slave to the Almighty God and thereby control their senses. And all those who lack this knowledge, will become slaves to their senses and neglect God. All those who become a slave to the Almighty, will improve. And all those who become a slave to their senses will ruin and waste their valuable human lives.

What is Devotion? Devotion is not to make business deals with God. When the entire resources belong to God, there arises no need to do business with God. Baba states, "When the wish fulfilling tree is within you, why ask for petty things?" Devotion helps us to realize this wish fulfilling tree within us.

We see all physical objects with our eyes. But the most wanted Entity God remains unseen by man. For God being unseen, man must not dishearten and lose interest in Him. It is not just God who is unseen. In every object there is an unseen entity present. For example cream is unseen in milk. Fragrance is unseen in a flower. Fire is unseen in firewood. Salt is unseen in seawater. So we must develop faith in God and learn His formless attributes. Man must take up this activity as a challenge. He must make his effort with a lot of love towards God. The formless attributes of the Lord which enable man to abide to good things in his life, are as follows. Our Almighty God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnifarious, has no thirst and hunger, has no birth or death, is beyond the attributes of the five elements, has innumerable good attributes to His credit, is blemish less, is peace giver, liberator, a pure entity and controls time. All those who enjoy these formless attributes of the Lord are indeed blessed. With Human Values when we always follow Truth, all the latent Divine Qualities will manifest in us. Along with them many spiritual experiences will come under our fore.

This Devotion is a very strong Force. Realize the impact of this Devotion through the life of Swami Vivekananda. Swami Vivekananda has a strong desire to see God right from his childhood. It is this desire which transformed Narendranath Dutta (Vivekananda's original name) into Swami Vivekananda.

**6. DUTY:** Every one must attend to his personal priorities without fail, irrespective of age, gender and status. All those who are habituated to spirituality will be naturally attending to all their duties in a normal and perfect way. They will not entertain unwanted situations. They will hold to their responsibilities, in a polite and friendly way. They feel that 24 hours is too much for them to achieve the impossible. They not only do their duties but also will find sufficient time to help others in their 24 hours.

In the present Day society, if man is attending to his daily core of activities in a normal course, then he will seldom entertain any problems. But what is he doing? He is neglecting his personal priorities and getting involved in unwanted activities. For this attitude man is buying 75% of his problems, says Baba. Let's do our duty.

Through Sathya Sai Vahini Baba advises man to spend the 24 hours of the day

as follows. Spend 6 hours for sleep, 6 hours for daily core of activities, 6 hours for attending his duties and 6 hours for selfless service to Humanity.

In the present day society, today's parents lack clarity over spirituality. Today's parents are solely responsible for their wards bad behavior, says Baba. Today's parents are not relishing if their wards spend one hour for Bhajan, or go to a temple, or read any Great man's life history. They are reprimanding their wards saying that this is not the right time for Spirituality. How foolish are today's parents? Children must be given good education. Good education involves the incorporation of human values in their regular chore of activities. In the past, the education curriculum contained value oriented syllabus. Lives of many great men were taught to children as lessons. So children who missed value based education at home, were benefitted at school with this syllabus. But nowadays, this value based syllabus has been slowly declining, even at school level. So the present day children lack value based education. This is a pity. As a result, Baba started Balavikas to the students to promote Spiritual Education. Education is of two types. They are physical education and spiritual education. Physical Education will provide us a degree and a job, but spiritual education will transform our lives into good individuals. Bhagawan Baba has given the name 'EDUCARE' to His Education System. This educare involves both physical and spiritual educations.

If we bring a precious gold ornament from our neighbors, we will take all possible care until we return it back to them. In the same way, we must look after our children, says Baba.

**Introspection:** Every one must make an introspection to realize these 6 pre-requisites in his fold. Through this introspection we can easily realize our own lapses. If we feel any difficulty in our efforts, let's pray God. God will definitely show us the way. There is a proverb in English which says, "God delays but never Denies". Due to lack of patience and effort, it is we, who are drifting away from God. So we must develop Purity, Patience and perseverance in our efforts, says Baba. But if you apply Purity, Patience and Perseverance in your efforts, you will very soon realize that "God never delays even for a moment. He is always ready to help us".

Man is a social being. He cannot live on his own. He has to depend upon others for his sustenance and maintenance. Under the circumstances, he must develop good behavior. If some of us develop good behavior and others develop bad behavior due to ignorance and selfishness, then the society will suffer chaos and restlessness.

All those who aspire for spirituality must attain 100% marks. If we reach 50% spirituality, it infers that there will be 50% lapses still remaining within us. With 50% spirituality, we will be waging a Kuru-Pandava battle (fight between good and bad), within us.

Our Divine Master, with a lot of love towards mankind has shown us the way with these six qualities to develop spirituality within us. Just follow for yourself the six qualities and observe for yourself how God serves and protects you in all your efforts and endeavors.

## 2. MIND – THE 6 SINS 4 ATTRIBUTES AND THE 6 VIRTUES

“In order to improve our Faith in God, what is the way?” asked a youth to Baba. Baba replied “Don’t malign your mind with impurities”. That youth could not properly understand Baba’s message. So Baba clarified thus. “When you are very young, your mind was very pure. At that young age you had a lot of love towards your parents and also for God. You used to obey your mother’s words with a lot of love. But what is your status today? Now you have become youth. Do you have the same love towards your mother and God now? No. Now you are not relishing your mother’s words. Even your faith in God has come down! What is the reason? Now your mind is not pure. It is tainted with many impurities. So if you want to regain your lost faith in God, you must take caution to stem the rot.” This situation clearly enlightens us how we demote ourselves with time in terms of Spirituality.

**THE SIX SINS OF THE MIND:** They are our inner enemies. When we come across our foes on a physical plane, we feel agitated. But if we possess these 6 sins in our mind, then we will be restless as long as they reside in us. Hence we must make efforts to drive these 6 sins away from us as early as possible. We must take care that they do not entertain us.

The six sins that impure our mind are as follows. They are 1.Desires 2.Anger 3. Miserliness 4.Attraction to worldly objects 5.Pride and 6.Jealousy.

A pure mind is free from these 6 sins.

Let us observe what Baba has said related to Human behavior. Man behaves in four different ways. These tendencies are animal, demonic, human and divine.

What are animal tendencies? An animal has selfish tendencies. It is ignorant. Because of its ignorance and selfishness it will involve in unwanted acts. An animal on its own will not interfere with others activities. But when their ignorant and selfish acts are controlled by elders of the family or of the society, they cannot relish and tolerate and hence cause harm to those who have done good to them.

What are demonic tendencies? These demonic men will interfere in others activities deliberately and cause all sorts of troubles to them. They enjoy the sufferings of others.

How is Human behavior? They follow the five human values and follow a good path. They express perfection in all their acts. Those men who lack these human values can be treated as demons or animals.

How is Divine Behavior? All those men who implement the five human values under all odds will manifest the divine qualities in them. These men will serve the Society, sacrificing their personal needs.

The six sins persist in Animal and Demonic tendencies. Those who possess these tendencies must make amends to sacrifice them.

Most of us possess these demonic and animal qualities, and still make an effort for spiritual progress. They make their bid. But here lies the confusion between spirituality and the devotion. With spirituality we leave behind our lapses and improve personally, but devotionally man is putting an indent for desires before God. As a result they will not achieve much progress. Hence all such men must bid farewell to their animal and demonic tendencies, warns all great men. All Spiritual aspirants must bear this message in their mind to realize this Truth and make selfless efforts for an easy spiritual progress.

**DESIRES:** The first of the six sins is Desires. We have two paths before us. They are the 1.Outward or external or Worldly path and 2.Inward path. The External path will bind man to the worldly mundane objects.

All those who opt an Inward path will develop closeness with our Lord. They will realize the temporary, unreal and fleeting nature of the worldly objects. Thus after realizing these truths, they slowly detach themselves from the worldly objects. Baba advises man to adopt any one path at a given point of time. To ride on two horses is very risky, advises Baba.

In the long run, what is achieved from the External path? Man is left with pain and sufferings. In this external path, man is not satisfied with his Earnings. As his earnings grow, he becomes more and more greedy. There will be no ending to his greediness. Even the desires multiply. Man is never satisfied with his possessions. Hence it is inferred that physical desires will never quench man's thirst. When man fulfills his desires, he feels happy. But he will add a few more desires to his list. But if the desires remain unfulfilled? He will suffer. On a worldly plane "Man benefits more if his worldly desires remain unfulfilled. His worldly desires will be under control", says Baba.

What do we achieve through our Inward Path? We achieve permanent bliss. We all opine that a man without desires is not a man at all. Hence he must have some desires. But what type of desires? They must possess those desires which promote Spirituality. As we move more close to Divine, our worldly desires will proportionally decline.

In the external path, with an increase in worldly desires, the attributes of the mind like speed, instability and wavering tendencies will also increase and cause restless to man. This will drain away the energies of the mind.

When man enters the Inward path, all his worldly desires will slowly decrease with time. As these desires decrease the attributes of the mind like the speed, instability and wavering tendencies will decline to a large extent and cause peace of mind. Such a relaxed mind will manifest its power.

**2. ANGER:** Anger is an Animal and Demonic tendency. When do we get angry? When things go awry or when nobody heeds and obeys our requests, then we will get angry. We are not in a position to analyze our thoughts, words and deeds in terms of their virtuousness, applicability and acceptability. But still if things go awry, we get angry. Through anger we will lose our Discrimination, and behave like an animal. Example: Raavana abducted Sita. He desired for Sita. Sita refused him. Raavana got angry. There is no meaning in his anger. He lost his discrimination. Everyone condemned his action.

In a fire, when firewood is added, the fire will grow into wild fire. In the same way, when an angry person is irritated, his anger will burst out into wild rage. So we must control the anger of any person.

**3. MISERLINESS:** We think that a miser will not share his possessions with others around. That's not all. If we make friendship with a miser, even we will not succeed in our endeavors. Not only that. If a miser is by our side, then we will face many hardships in his presence. All over the World, these misers with their miserliness are responsible for many problems. So be careful with the misers. A miser is selfish and always thinks of his own self. He will never think of others welfare. If we make a miser our friend, even we are ruined along with him. Ex:-Raavana and Duryodhana. Duryodhana's miserliness has caused the Great Maha Bharatha War. Dhritaraastra means he who is interested in possessing others possessions, says Baba. In this way Dhritaraastra's greed could not control his son's lapses. Dhritaraastra thus lost all his 100 sons in the War. Coming to Ravana, Sita was Rama's chastised wife. Ravana abducted Sita and brought her to Lanka. Raavana's action was condemned by

wife Mandodari, brother Vibhishana, son Prahastha and grandfather Maalyavantha. They all advised Raavana to return back Sita to Rama. But Raavana did not heed to their advice because of his Miserliness. So in this way both Duryodhana and Raavana, with their miserliness have been found responsible for the demolition of their entire clan. A miser's mind will be impure and his heart condensed with bad habits.

**4. ATTRACTION TO THE WORLDLY OBJECTS:** They are attracted by worldly objects and develops a keen desire to possess them. He who is attracted by worldly objects will very soon lose his peace of mind. This attraction for worldly objects will make him buy many problems. Suppose some X has one hundred rupees in his pocket. He is attracted by a thousand rupees object and decides to possess them. He will make a debt of nine hundred rupees. As a result his expenses will rise by many folds. This debt will not be repaid. By procuring this object, he infact has purchased hardships and restlessness.

All those men who are attracted by such worldly things will commit heinous crimes and offences. We have heard of Rani Padmini. She is the wife of Prithivi Raj. She was a very beautiful Queen. Knowing that she was Prithivi Raj's wife, yet Mohammad Ghazni defeated Prithivi Raj in a deceitful war, but could not win Rani padmini's hand. Following the Indian Tradition, giving importance to character, knowing that Ghazni will take control of her possession, she sacrificed herself in fire and remained forever in the hearts of all Indians. Another Example: Once Raavana, the Demon King visited Kubera. Kubera possessed an aeroplane - Pushpaka Vimaana - which can hold any number of people. Raavana after learning about Pushpaka Vimaana, has grabbed it from Kubera's possession.

Let us observe the present day attractions. A few of them are attracted by latest cars and motor bikes. Women are attracted by latest fashion saris available in the market. These men want to possess the latest model object available in the market. In the exchange of a new car with an old one, they will incur huge losses. But still they will not care for this money. They are ready to waste large sums of money in this fashion, but they are not inclined to spend a single rupee towards the benefit of our society. This attraction to worldly objects is the main reason for the price rise of the objects. We must purchase things only when we are in need of them. Only then the prices will be under control.

**5. PRIDE:** All are the Embodiments of the Divine. All those men who fail to realize this truth will get limited to external vision and develop Pride. Possessing this pride is a demonic quality. Possessing this pride, they cannot tolerate others progress and hence interfere in others normal routine and humiliate them. Pride manifests among men in 8 different forms. They are related to Education, Money, Wealth, Beauty, Power of the post, support of man power, possessing a strong body and lastly the pride of caste. All those who express selfish tendencies will lack good qualities. They go in for False Prestige and in the process face unwanted situations and even faced humiliations in others hands. Our history reveals many such incidents. Example1: Raavana went to Vaali and tried to prove himself as a Hero. But Vaali humbled Raavana and humiliated him. Example 2 : When Paandavas were in the forest, Kauravaas in order to humiliate them were on their way to the Paandavas. But on the way, the Yakshas captured the Kauravas. And for this unexpected predicament, it was Paandavas who rescued Kauravaas from Yakshas. See the turn of events and grasp the Divine play. Learn a lesson.

**6. JEALOUSY:** Those who have wealth will express pride. But those who have no wealth will feel Jealous over others well being and wealth.

India is a land of action (Karma Bhoomi). All men must perform actions. But it will

be our God, who will deliver the fruits of our actions. These Jealous men are not realizing this simple Truth. Men without Jealousy will be satisfied with whatever they had, and go beyond the dualities. This non dualistic attitude will promote equanimity. Such men will see God in all. But the Jealous men cannot develop this non dual nature. Men who lack Jealousy are the blessed ones. In our history there are many instances where jealous men are humiliated. Such incidents will serve as lessons for us. Example: Duryodhana is an emperor. After seeing “Indraprastha”, Paandavas mansion, he was filled with jealousy. The feeling that he could not possess ‘Indraprastha’ made him restless. With this restlessness, he desired for Paandavas downfall. But in the end, due to this jealousy he was perished.

Pride and Jealousy are compared to termites that hold on to a tree and harm the same tree to which they hold. In the same way, pride and jealousy will cause their own downfall.

**INTROSPECTION:** These six sins will cause the downfall of any person. In our history, there are many powerful demons. One among them was Raavana. Raavana stands as a symbol for possessing these six sins. Raavana though mastered the 64 Arts of learning could not put to practice even one of them. On the other hand, Rama who stands as a symbol of righteousness learned all the Arts of education and put them all into practice. Raavana just because he was highly learned was considered ‘Great’, but Rama on the other hand who implemented his knowledge is referred to as ‘Good’. We must make efforts to become a ‘Good Man’ and not as a ‘Great Man’. All good men with the passage of time will attain ‘Greatness’, says Baba.

When we are born, our mind will be very pure. But as we grow into adults, we are entertaining these six sins, making our mind impure. A patient losing his health, will not relish the food. In the same way, these men with six sins will not entertain good words and morals. In order for a patient to become normal, he must control his diet. Even if the medicine pills taste bitter, the patient must be administered with these bitter pills. In the same way Rama advocated many suggestions of caution for the wellbeing of the society.

“Man is a social animal. Men who possess these six sins will desire for others downfall and hence act accordingly. They will not heed to good advice. Hence when we face such men, we must defend them bravely but never submit meekly to them”. This is Rama’s suggestion to mankind.

**ATTRIBUTES OF THE MIND:** The six sins invade our mind. Man must take measures to drive away these six sins from him. Men must also take measures not to entertain these six sins into their mind. If man possesses any of these six sins he must be relieved from them as early as possible.

Bhagawan Baba explains spirituality in a simple way. Even a common man can understand His philosophy easily. When we intake some food, that food is digested, assimilated and converted into energy. In this process the unwanted particles in the food are ejected as fecal matter. In the same manner the attributes of the mind must be understood. Mind has four attributes. When we understand these four attributes we shall realize what is needed for spirituality. The four attributes of the mind are 1) Speed, 2) Instability, 3) Wavering Nature and 4) Power of the Mind. The first three attributes must be controlled to realize the Power of the Mind.

**1. SPEED OF THE MIND:** Mind moves at a very high speed. Our mind will be here now, and will be at a far off place in another moment. We must control this speed. How to control the speed of the mind? Chanting of the Lord’s Name is the most easy and efficient way to control the speed of the mind. As the speed of the mind decrease, the thought processes will slow down and the mind receives the much needed rest or relaxation.

**2. UNSTABILITY:** Man always wants to be happy. In order to be happy, man will run after the worldly objects. But no worldly objects will give lasting peace and happiness. Unable to realize this Truth, man in order to be happy will frequently shift objects. Then how can man attain lasting happiness? The solution lies in Divinity – a stable entity. This Divinity will promote lasting happiness in man. So here again the instability of the mind is controlled by chanting Lord's Name.

**3. WAVERING NATURE OF THE MIND:** In this fleeting world, nothing is permanent. All worldly objects which change with time, cannot give lasting peace and happiness to man. Under the circumstances, what is the way for man to achieve lasting happiness? He must hold on to a permanent entity which never changes with time. Divinity is such phenomenon. That means here again chanting of the Lord's Name is the best way to control the wavering nature of the mind.

**4. POWER OF THE MIND:** Our mind is very powerful. But our mind is weakened by the six sins and the unwanted 3 attributes like speed, instability and the wavering nature of the mind. With these six sins and these three attributes the mind will be constantly fixed on worldly objects. In order to shift our mind from the worldly objects towards God, the six virtues and chanting of the Lord's name will help us overcome these weaknesses. Only then we will experience the Power of our Mind. A pure mind will help man from a finite state to an infinite state. With a pure mind he can instantly receive God's responses too.

Man not realizing the attributes of the mind is starting Meditation to control the mind. Such a mind will not yield fruits. When we know the attributes of our mind, we can as well control our mind without Meditation, says Baba. Just by chanting Lord's Name the Speed, Instability and the Wavering nature of the mind can be easily controlled.

**THE SIX VIRTUES:** Our mind always runs after the worldly objects. Our mind is very powerful. We must make proper use of our mind. Our mind is compared to a pot full of water. If we handle this earthen pot carelessly, holes will be formed in the pot and the entire water will go waste. Similarly, if we carelessly handle our mind in this worldly mundane, then the mind will lose all its power. Hence in order to make proper use of our mind we must get habituated to these six virtues. They are 1. Develop Inward Path, 2. Sense Control, 3. Directing our mind towards God's Proximity, 4. Going beyond the Dualities of life, 5. Showing Interest towards good things in life and 6. Acknowledging our Indweller.

**1. DEVELOP INWARD PATH:** If we let loose our mind, then it will be tempted towards worldly objects and pleasures. This is not desired. Hence there is a need for all of us to develop the Inward Path. What is this Inward Path? Before undertaking any act we must pose 3 questions. These questions are 1. What is good and what is bad? 2. What is Permanent and what is Temporary? 3. What is Truth and what is Untruth? With this enquiry we can easily achieve spiritual progress.

**2. SENSE CONTROL:** Sense Control is a very important responsibility of our mind. We have five sense organs and five action organs. The 5 Sense Organs are the Eyes, Ears, Nose, Tongue and Touch. The 5 Action Organs are the Hands, Legs, Throat, Anus and the Genital Organs. All these ten organs must be under the control of our mind. But are they under the control of our mind? "Why man knowingly commits mistakes?" asked Arjuna to Lord Krishna. Krishna replied, "He who has no sense control will deliberately commit mistakes".

In this physical world we must make optimum use of these organs. In Telugu language the Sense Organs are referred as 'Maatras', meaning 'Medical Pills'. This means that we must limit our senses for good deeds only.

All these sense organs are part of our body and have fixed positions. How are these sense organs helpful to man? These organs will give information about the external world and enable man to execute his tasks. They create bondage between man and the external world and help in the sustenance and maintenance of this body. But what are we doing? We are enjoying the pleasures of the external world with our sense organs, and forgetting in the process, the purpose of our life.

Our mind is supposed to control our senses. But a weak mind may not control our sense organs. But our intelligences are beyond the reach of these sense organs. Hence, man must utilize God given Intelligences to develop sense control.

**3. DIRECTING OUR MIND TOWARDS GOD'S PROXIMITY:** In this physical world our mind is always directed towards worldly objects. Hence we must make efforts to divert our mind from the worldly objects towards God's Proximity. In Telugu this process is called 'Uparathi'. Here 'upa' means nearness to God, and 'rathi' means liking. Once the mind falls in the Divine groove, then it will slowly lose interest in the worldly objects.

**4. GOING BEYOND THE DUALITIES OF LIFE:** This world is filled with Dualities. But in this creation, it is only man who is more concerned with these dualities. If but for these dualities, there will be no differences between man and an animal. Birth and Death, Profit and Loss, Happiness and Suffering, Sin and Piousness etc are some of the dualities. A Mother loves her child because of these dualities.

As a result of these dualities, man is finding fault with God for his suffering. But God is an eternal witness. To blame God for our sufferings is not proper. God is unbiased, impartial and maintains equanimity towards all. Finally it is these dualities which bring transformation in man from an external outlook to an inward path. God has shown 5 types of Equanimities towards man. They are a).Equanimity of Nature, b).Equanimity of the Society, c).Equanimity of the Knowledge, d).Equanimity of Action and e).Equanimity of the Devotion.

**a).EQUANIMITY OF NATURE:** In summer we cannot bear the heat. During winter we cannot bear the cold. In this way God expresses Equanimity towards all.

**b).EQUANIMITY OF THE SOCIETY:** Gloom prevails in a house where death occurs. And in a house, where a marriage is performed everybody will be happy. After a lapse of time, the reverse will happen. In this way, the Equanimities of Nature and Society will teach lessons of life to man to promote man to go beyond the dualities of life.

**c).EQUANIMITY OF KNOWLEDGE:** This Equanimity teaches man that all humans are the embodiments of the Divine Soul. But based on their actions we differentiate men as 'Good' or 'Bad'. This is not proper. We must realize the Divinity in all. Example: We have a Bulb, a Fan, an Air Cooler and a Heater, etc. All are different electrical equipments that work differently. But they all work with Electricity only.

**d).THE EQUANIMITY OF ACTION:** God is a Universal Director. He is an Eternal witness. He sees that man is rewarded as per his actions. This means that man is responsible for the fruits of his

actions. He must never blame God for his sufferings. Example: This World is a Stage. The Lights fixed on this Stage is God. During the Play, the Stage and the Lights will not change but the actors and the situations will change. In the first scene, the actor performed as a King. In the second scene the same actor performed as a Pauper. And in the third scene the same actor acted as a Watchman in the Graveyard. Who is this actor? He is King Harishchandra, who stood to Truth under all odds.

**e).EQUANIMITY OF DEVOTION:** Man is a singular entity whereas God is a plural entity. But man is Divine in nature. We must shift from singularity to plurality in our spiritual progress. In other words we must progress from 'I' to 'We'. If man understands this Equanimity of Devotion, our spiritual progress becomes easy. Who am 'I'? Who is 'God'? 1). 'I' am Divine in origin but I am not 'God'. 2). There is mud in the Pot but mud is not Pot. Here I and Pot are Singular, whereas Mud and God are plural entities. 3).To understand the first two examples, better grasp this. I belong to a village VV, but the village VV is not me. I belong to Divine (singular entity) but that Divine (plural entity) is not me. This means I am a part of that Plurality.

God is beyond all attributes. Our body is made up of 5 elements. But our Soul is beyond the 5 attributes of these elements. Soul has no Death, no Birth; Fire cannot destroy it; Water cannot makes it wet. Bhagawad Gita explained the characteristics of the Soul. How to grasp the 'Soul' phenomenon, which is beyond the five attributes of the 5 Elements. Example: A Shadow. You are walking all along a road. As you walk, your shadow is with you. As you were walking along the canal your shadow was seen over water and got immersed in water. But your shadow is not wetted by water. After some time you are moving along by the side of a fire. Your shadow was now seen burning in the fire. But the Truth is that your shadow has not been flared up in fire. Next you walk by the side of a Dustbin. Your shadow was seen lying over the waste Dust. But your shadow is not affected by the foul smell of the dust. Just like the shadow, the Soul remains unaffected and is beyond the 5 Elements and its attributes. As an individual, we can see our shadow. But the Soul which is Universal Consciousness remains unseen and runs the entire show of this Universe. As long as God retains a form, we will mistake him as a single entity, but as a plural entity He is Formless, Unseen and beyond all the attributes.

Man must therefore understand and develop this equanimity towards all. With this Equanimity the spiritual progress can be easily achieved.

**5. INTEREST TOWARDS GOOD THINGS IN LIFE:** We must show interest and patience in all our actions. Bhagawad Gita advises man that he who has interest in good things of life will gain knowledge. Gita also states that a doubtful person will perish without making any effort. We will complete any activity only when we show interest in that activity. Without interest, we cannot achieve even small tasks.

There is Fire in the Firewood. There is Cream in Milk. There is Fragrance in a Flower. There is Salt in Seawater. In this materialistic world, we will have only external vision. But when we develop the Inward Vision, we can realize the unseen phenomenon in any object. To realize the latent unseen attributes we must develop keen interest in all our actions. Just because God is not seen with our eyes, we are losing interest in God. This is not proper. Develop interest in all good things of life and realize for yourself the Eternal Bliss.

**6. ACKNOWLEDGING OUR INDWELLER:** God is Omniscient. As an Indweller, He resides in all our hearts and remains a Witness for all our actions. For all our good acts we will receive satisfaction and for all our bad acts we receive uneasiness (Dissatisfaction) from our Indweller.

Everybody will receive such acknowledgements from our Indweller. We all must accept these acknowledgements. "He who acknowledges and obeys his Indweller will progress in life and he who disobeys the Indweller will perish" says our elders. Hence it is very important to develop introspection to acknowledge our Indweller.

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## 3 SPIRITUAL HEART – HABITS, HUMAN VALUES & DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

Where is God? God resides in our Spiritual Heart. How is our Spiritual Heart? It is very broad. It can incorporate the entire Universe in it. Man always thinks that God has blessed man with 'Intelligence', but he must also realize that God has blessed man with a 'Spiritual Heart'.

Mind must be always Pure for our Spiritual Progress. If it is impure then Spiritual Progress is not feasible. And coming to our Spiritual Heart, it must be broad and must never be condensed.

How are we maintaining our Spiritual Heart? Have we ever given a thought to this all important subject? Is it in a condensed form or otherwise? Blessed are those whose Spiritual Heart is Broad. And what can we say of those whose heart is in condensed form? They are the most unfortunate ones. "With effort it is not at all difficult to broaden our Spiritual Heart", says Baba.

Not realizing the differences between the Mind and the Spiritual Heart, we generally speak of narrow mindedness and broad mindedness. Technically speaking, Purity is related to our Mind and Broadness is related to our Spiritual Heart. So in this way we misuse many spiritual terms.

**HABITS:** What are the prime causes for the selfish nature of man? They are the Habits. The habits can be either good or bad. The saying goes that the young sapling can be mended easily, but not the tree. In the same way children must be mended with good habits when they are young. If the children are neglected for their bad habits during their childhood, then it becomes very difficult for them to mend their behavior at a later stage. Hence the saying, "Habits die hard". What are these bad habits that ruin man? They are 1). Invasion, 2).Violence, 3).Comparison with others and 4).To defend one's own actions. These four bad habits will cause the downfall of any person. With these habits man loses control of himself. He behaves in a selfish way. He does not care for others. He will be ready to harm others. These habits will destroy the human values of a person. With these bad habits man will not only suffer for himself but in the process will cause harm for others too. With these habits man suffers 4 types of losses. They are 1).He will fail to earn his four types of righteous earnings. 2). He will not heed to the good advice. 3). He will commit heinous crimes and suffer for them throughout life. 4). In order to achieve his desire, he will not hesitate to adapt any evil act. Example: Raavana is a great devotee of Lord Brahma and Siva. He had their blessings, but he is devoid of his own blessings! He is a great warrior. But what is the use? He is invaded and conquered by his own habits. Because of these habits Raavana opted a bad path and created his own doom.

As long as man is habituated to these habits, he will not escape from the Birth-Death cycle, for his liberation.

The relationship between the Spiritual Heart and the Mind is well defined by Baba. Let's realize this information for our Spiritual Progress. "Our mind will entertain thought processes. These thoughts can be either good or bad. Good thoughts will promote Progress and Happiness. Bad thoughts will result in our sufferings" says Baba. Baba added, "The source of our thought processes is our Spiritual Heart. As long as our Spiritual Heart is condensed with bad habits, it will release a mixture of both good and bad thoughts to the mind. But when the spiritual heart is totally free from the bad habits, then such a heart will release only good thoughts to the mind. When the mind always

receives good thoughts then such a person will be always happy". Such a person will always express happiness and aim for others welfare.

Working with our mind means we are relying heavily on our sense organs and the worldly objects. As long as our mind is impure, our mind is limited to this external outlook. Working with our heart means, we are following an Inward Path. With this Inward Path the mind will slowly achieve purity of mind and a broadened heart. As long as we are in Pravriti (External Outlook), our mind will run after worldly objects and we will remain in doldrums. We will neither realize the importance of an Inward Path nor will be able to come out of our selfish tendencies. As long as we are selfish all the bad traits will stay with us. We will not make any efforts to realize the truth.

"We must get habituated to work with our Spiritual Heart and not with our Mind" says Baba. Those who have no idea about the relation that exists between the mind and the spiritual heart may not understand Baba's message. But he who realizes the relation will relish the message and slowly shifts working from mind to the spiritual heart.

How to develop a Broadened outlook? This is an easy task, says Baba. How? 1).Get habituated to good things. 2).Avoid bad thoughts, words and actions. 3).Work selflessly for the wellbeing of the society.

How is our life today? How are we living today? If we introspect our lives in this way, we will bend our heads in shame. Everybody opines, "I am very busy. I had no time. I had a lot of work to do". We must analyze our acts for our improvement. God has given 24 hours per day. In this 24 hours man can make room for any number of good acts. Baba gave an excellent example. "There are 110 Elements in our nature. From these 110 Elements the trees will absorb only 26 Elements. The Trees will not entertain the remaining 84 elements. Man is advised to do good things with his ten senses. But what is he doing? He is seeing both good and bad with his eyes. He is hearing both good and bad with his ears. He is speaking both good and bad. He is doing both good and bad acts with his hands. Why man is not limited to good things in life? What has happened to God given Intelligences? Man is not properly utilizing his God given intelligences. If man utilizes his God given intelligences, then man can limit himself to good things in life, as does the plants towards the usage of the 26 Elements. Unable to limit himself to good things in life, man is not finding time for his spirituality i.e. his real progress.

SEE NO EVIL. SEE ONLY GOOD.

HEAR NO EVIL. HEAR ONLY GOOD.

SPEAK NO EVIL. SPEAK ONLY GOOD.

In this way when we limit ourselves to good things in life, we will add many good things in our daily core of activities. In the process we will remove all the unwanted acts from our list of priorities and we find more leisure, more patience and more interest towards good things in life. In this way we must make a slow start to achieve good things in life.

Everyday let's attend to Bhajan (Devotional Singing) for 1hour/day. "If I attend Bhajan for 1 hour, what is the benefit for me?" is our attitude. "How can you expect spiritual progress in such a short time? The fruits of spirituality are permanent in nature. Why are you so anxious about your spiritual benefits? To come out of School, you have to work hard for 10 years. You have to work for

another five years to get a Degree. To obtain God's GRACE (GRACE is a 5 lettered word), can't you make spiritual effort for 5 years?" asks Baba. Spiritualize your life. Chant God's name in all your activities. Attend Bhajans. Read religious texts. Partake in Service activities. In this way we must spiritualize to refrain from bad acts.

When you spiritualize your daily acts, the difference between daily routine and the spiritual acts will vanish and you need not skip any of your duties to partake in spiritual activities.

Most of us say and feel that they have no time to spare for spiritual things. If that is the case, then at least develop chanting Lord's name while doing all your acts, says Baba.

All spiritual things are very easy and very simple to implement. We all know that even a mighty snake will be killed by tiny ants. In the same way by making a small beginning in spirituality, we can tame the mighty mind. He who paves way for small changes in life can achieve great things in life, says personality development.

**HUMAN VALUES:** "The entire Humanity must follow and implement the human values in their daily lives. My Mission is to guide Humanity to implement these human values in their daily lives", says Baba.

What are these Human Values? In our society most of us are not aware of these human values. So every human must learn the knowledge of Human Values. The 5 human values are 1).Truth, 2).Righteousness, 3).Peace, 4).Love and 5).Non Violence.

**1).TRUTH:** Truth is Divine. It is Eternal. Develop Faith and Love towards this Eternal Truth.

**2). RIGHTEOUSNESS:** Performing all acts following the Eternal Truth is Righteousness.

**3).PEACE:** For all Righteous acts which follow Eternal Truth, we are blessed with Peace.

**4).LOVE:** For all Righteous acts which follow Eternal Truth, we are blessed with Peace. This Peace blossoms as Love and is shared with others around.

**5).NON VIOLENCE:** When we express our Love towards all creatures of God, it is called Non Violence.

Thus there exists a relation between all the five human values. Example: Electricity. "The Electrical Main in our house can be compared to Truth. The Electrical wiring can be compared to Righteousness. Bulbs and Fans can be compared to Peace. The Light and the cold breeze can be compared to Love", says Baba.

These Human Values are not available in the outside world. They cannot be purchased by money. Then how can man access them? They are within us. Just because they are latent and not experienced, never say we are devoid of human values. There are many riches in the mighty ocean. He who explores the ocean will realize these riches. Sitting on the seashore if one claims that there are no riches in the sea then he will be considered a fool. So let's follow our Inward Path to realize the latent potentialities in man.

Every man must follow the 5 human values, says Baba. Baba gave a lot of information regarding these human values. Baba on one occasion, in His message promised the audience with a

'Mantra'. There was a lot of curiosity about the Mantra and there was pin drop silence. Mantra contains God's name or His Attributes and on constant chanting of this Mantra, man will attain Liberation. The audience eagerly waited for the Mantra. Baba observing the curiosity of the Mantra took His own time to reveal the Mantra. He revealed the Mantra as "I am not an Animal". The audience were upset with this Mantra. After a little pause Baba said that the Mantra was not complete. Again there was a lot of curiosity. Baba again took His own time to reveal the remaining part of the Mantra as 'I am Man'. So what is the Mantra given by Baba? "I AM NOT AN ANIMAL. I AM MAN", is the Mantra. Man must be aware of his being. But for God who else on this Earth can guide man in this tough way. This shows God's True Love for humanity.

All commodities like Education, Wealth, Designation, Office, etc without Human Values will carry no value, says Baba.

Rama is Righteousness personified. Through Ramayana, Baba conveyed another wonderful lesson to Mankind. Baba questioned, "Who on this Earth is Happy"? For this query Baba Himself replied, "Are the rich happy? No. Are the learned men happy? No. Are the Rulers Happy with their manpower? No. Is a Flawless person happy? No". (I was surprised, stunned and felt sorry to hear this information related to a flawless person). "ALL THOSE WHO PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS FOLLOWING THE ETERNAL TRUTH, ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO ENJOY PEACE AND HAPPINESS IN THIS WORLD", replied Baba. What a great spiritual lesson!

We all enjoy love for our Motherland. We want to express this love for our Motherland. But we are unaware of how to express it. "Practice Human Values to prove your Patriotism" says Baba.

Human Values have unlimited application in our daily lives. They are not just limited to spirituality. Human Values are concerned for all walks of life and for all modes of activities. Man must progress along with the Human Values.

**DIVINE ATTRIBUTES:** Right from my childhood, I am enjoying these Divine attributes. Even then I had no clarity about these Divine Attributes. The bliss one obtains for possessing these Divine Attributes cannot be matched by any material possessions or pleasures. These Divine Attributes are very special to man. Those who enjoy these Divine Attributes will pay Gratitude to God for their Human Birth.

Man is aware of the Divine Attributes. But what man lacks is the complete knowledge of these Divine Attributes. These Divine Attributes will have a finite beginning but with effort and time they will reach infinite proportions. Man must realize this truth and make efforts to promote in himself these Divine Attributes. When we transform from a finite state "I" to the infinite state "We", we will experience these Divine Attributes latent in us.

Once, Baba gave a talk on Human Values. In this message, Baba stated that there are 4 types of men in our society, based on their behavior. They are 1).Animal, 2).Demonic, 3).Human and 4).Divine. Based on Tamasik, Rajasik and Sathwik qualities Baba explained the four attitudes of man. From this message man must realize the four states of his spiritual progress. This message states us the latent hurdles in man that prevent his spiritual progress.

"Those who constantly practice Human Values will enjoy abundant Divine Grace", says Baba. In this message he added

1). Truth will confer a).Fearlessness, b).Courage, c).Humility and d).Detachment.

2).Righteousness will promote a).Duty, b).Discipline, c).Sense Control, d).Patience and e).Perseverance.

3). Peace will enable a).Self Satisfaction, b).Cheerfulness and c).Equanimity.

4).Love expresses a).Kindness, b).Forgiveness, c).Service and d).Sacrifice.

5).Non Violence will pave way for a).Compassion and b).Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man.

God always blesses man with abundance. That abundance is beyond our expectation. After realizing what these Divine Attributes are I was in Bliss for a long time. The ultimate goal of man must be to realize and experience for themselves these Divine Attributes in an infinite state. Experiencing this abundance man will pay his gratitude to God for his human birth.

Let us briefly discuss the Divine Attributes.

**I TRUTH:** Truth is Divine. Those who ‘follow’ Truth always, will be conferred with 4 Divine attributes. They are Fearlessness, Courage, Humility and the Detachment.

**1. FEARLESSNESS:** Truth is Divine. Those who have a strong desire to see God are the blessed ones as they prefer a good path. They are afraid of doing bad acts. As they refrain from sin, they remain fearless. Example: If you read Swami Vivekananda’s biography, you will understand that he has a very strong desire to see God from a very young age and read many inspiring incidents of Fearlessness. With his fearlessness he roared like a lion to ‘Be Fearless’.

**2. COURAGE:** God will work for the welfare of one and all. In the same way, there will be a few individuals who sincerely wish for the well being of our society. Such men will naturally possess courage. With their courage they promote Good deeds and condemn bad deeds.

Among us there will be many men who are Fearless, but it is very strange to find out that there will be only very few men who are Courageous. We see many fearless men, but why only a few courageous men? Among these fearless men only those who thrive for the welfare of the humanity will muster courage and not the rest. Vivekananda’s biography is full of incidents with Divine Attributes right from his Childhood. After the demise of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda was not known to the external world. He started on a pilgrimage all alone. His main aim is to drive away the weaknesses of the humanity. During this pilgrimage trip, his message always carried truth and he became famous all over India. He was nominated in 1893 to participate in the world religious meet at Chicago as an Indian delegate. What happened thereafter is history. He travelled many countries and with his message of Eternal Truth, thrived for the Unity of all religions.

**3. HUMILITY:** He who sees God in all creatures will develop this Humility towards one and all. Generally, we understand, that humility means to obey and respect elders. But observe what Bhagawan Baba has said about Humility. “To serve mankind with Unity, Purity and Divinity is Humility”. What a complete message! Through the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organizations, Baba guided His devotees to offer their services with such humility. And coming to Swami Vivekananda we must recollect what he has stated with humility. He stated that he is willing to be born even as a Dog to serve the Humanity.

**4. DETACHMENT:** When we ‘Always Follow Truth’, we will develop this Divine Attribute. We will shift from external outlook to inward path. What is Inward Path? Pose three questions in all your acts. 1).What is Good and what is Bad? 2).What is Permanent and what is Temporary? 3).What is Truth and what is Untruth? When we are habituated to this inward path, we will develop detachment towards all worldly objects.

What are ‘Properties’, Baba asked and replied Properties as ‘Proper + Ties’. We must therefore maintain proper ties with the worldly objects.

God’s creation is really wonderful. And Human Birth is the most auspicious of the entire God’s creation. Human Birth is priceless. We must not devalue our birth. We must make proper use of our Birth. In order to lead such a meaningful life man must follow an inward path. Example: After completing his education, Swami Vivekananda was slowly settling down with Ramakrishna Paramahansa as an ascetic. At that time his father passed away and the entire burden of the family fell on Swami Vivekananda. What to do? He asked for Ramakrishna Paramahansa’s guidance. Ramakrishna advised him to pray the Goddess Mother directly. A pure mind can access immediate response from the Divine. Mother Goddess has shown two paths to Swami Vivekananda. If he opts to a materialistic path, then he will amass a lot of riches else If he opt an inward path, then he will become a great saint. Here the Mother Goddess has left the choice to Swami Vivekananda’s discrimination. Swami Vivekananda with his Detachment preferred to be an ascetic.

Bhagawan Baba has suggested “Ceiling on Desires” to the humanity. This Ceiling on Desires is meant to save Time, Money, Resources and Energies. Man must direct these savings to serve the mankind. This message promotes in us the detachment from the worldly objects and desires. As long as man prefers an external vision, he cannot attain detachment. Man can attain detachment only through Inner Path.

We all know that less luggage makes travel a pleasure. In the same way, this detachment from worldly objects will make our life more meaningful and eventful.

We have another message of Baba. What is first? Naivedhyam or Prasadham? Naivedhyam is the food offered to God. That food which is offered as Naivedhyam is later consumed as Prasadham. It is here that we must give a thought to this issue. “This entire Universe with all its resources belongs to God. Man is just a limited being. Under the circumstances what can man offer to God? In reality God does not expect anything from man. It is God who always ‘gives’ to man. Not understanding this Truth, man feels that he can make an offering to God. What is he offering? He is offering food that is spoiled in a day or two. Man must realize his limitations here. “Man must realize that it is God who is the Giver and that he is a Recipient”. What is man receiving from God? Human Birth. This Human Birth is priceless and is not spoiled in a day or two. Man is supposed to utilize his human birth efficiently. He must utilize God given resources in an optimum way and serve the humanity to the extent possible. This is the offering God expects from man. God likes such a Naivedhyam”. Realize the U turn of events in this message, which promotes Detachment in us.

In the Mahabharatha war, we see both Duryodhana who with his limited thinking opted for an unrighteous path and Dharma Raja who with his magnanimous thinking opted for an infinite righteous path. When we observe the modus operandi of Duryodhana and Dharma Raja, we will observe two different approaches. For Duryodhana his first preference is Self, followed by Society and God last. And for Dharma Raja, the order of priority is God followed by society and Self last. If we observe the biographies of great men, their order of preferences will be God first, followed by Society and Self

last. Such messages touch our heart. With introspection every one of us can realize our modus operandi. This is a great lesson to correct our path. With detachment we must change our behavior pattern to attain spiritual progress.

**II. RIGHTEOUSNESS:** Every act we perform following Truth is Righteousness. All those who always ‘practice’ Righteousness will be blessed with 5 Divine attributes. They are Duty, Discipline, Sense Control, Patience and Perseverance.

**1). DUTY:** Man must do his duty without fail. What are the duties of children and parents? Small children are very plain at heart. They are innocent. They don’t have much knowledge. They learn a lot by observing their parents and elders. What does this lot mean to them? This lot means both good and bad. In this regard if the parents and elders are limited to only good things, even the children will follow suit. Even the Environment in which the children are living will have a bearing on their behavior. So the parents must enable their wards to grow in a good atmosphere. Our Traditions and Culture, by and large, will enable spiritual progress in man. So we all must follow our Traditions and Culture. So it is the duty of the parents and elders to guide their children by practice rather than precept. What if the parents go awry? If the parents or elders opt a wrong or a bad path, even the children will follow suit in ignorance. Some parents and elders speak good things but without practice. Such children will suffer a lot. They will be in a dilemma. They don’t know what to follow and what not to follow. Hence, all children must switch on to spirituality. In such cases, it is spirituality which helps and guides children to proper path. God will take care of such children.

In the present day society, most of us are losing interest in spirituality. A bird has two wings. A bird cannot fly with one wing. In the same way man has to attend two needs. They are the physical(external path) and spiritual needs(inward path). But man is totally involved in the material needs, forgetting and neglecting in the process his spiritual needs. As long as man is limited to his physical needs then he will remain in a finite state. When he attends both his physical and spiritual needs then he will fly high into infinity. How? Example: In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Thimmarusu acted as the eminent Prime Minister in the court of Vijayanagar Rulers in South India. One day the court faced a tricky situation. A line was drawn on the paper. Without erasing, the line must be made small. This is the tricky problem. Nobody has a solution for it. Thimmarusu very easily solved the problem. He has drawn a big line parallel to the existing line. This made the existing line appear small before the big line. In the same way, if we adopt to external path alone (only one line), then we cannot discriminate our acts as good or bad. But when we entertain both physical and spiritual paths (the small and big lines), we can easily differentiate between good and bad, permanent and temporary, truth and untruth.

We will reach our goals if we attend to our duties. We must also realize that if we neglect spirituality in our daily life, we will fail in our physical goals too. Spiritual goals will bring out the best from an individual.

**2). DISCIPLINE:** We have briefly discussed Duty and Discipline as a part of 6 pre-requisites of spirituality. Discipline for a beginner will be felt as a burden. It will be felt as a burden as long as its utility value is not realized. Once we realize the need for Discipline in all our acts, then we will start relishing this discipline. Discipline as a burden is a temporary and finite entity, but Discipline as a Divine Attribute is an infinite permanent entity. Thus in the medium of spirituality we will be transformed from a finite state to an infinite state. In this way there will be a sea change in our behavior in the medium of spirituality. Please note that these changes are not attained by force. This

change in behavior will transform a man from a temporary state of Happiness to permanent Bliss. In order to achieve these benefits, man must spiritualize his life.

**3).SENSE CONTROL:** Sense control is a difficult task for those who have an external vision and an easy task for those who follow an inward path. Our Mind is supposed to control our Senses. “Why man is deliberately committing mistakes” asked Arjuna to Lord Krishna. For this query Lord Krishna through His Bhagawad Gita has given a universal message relating to Sense control. In our body there are 5 sense organs and 5 action organs, which serve as tools and guide man to connect with the External world. Our Soul is the real boss of our body. But here lies the actual problem. The sense organs are attracted by the worldly objects. Our Senses will be efficiently working with the involvement of our mind. So along with our Senses even our Mind is carried away by these worldly objects and sensual pleasures. Such a mind will be filled with impurities like six sins. With these six sins the mind will neglect Discrimination and deliberately commit mistakes. Our Mind can be carried away by the Sense Organs but our Intelligences act beyond the Sense Organs. What is the way out for this predicament? Our Mind is supposed to send all its thought processes to the Intelligences for their Discrimination between good and bad. An impure and maligned mind will fail to send its thought processes to its Intelligences. As a result Discrimination is lost or neglected. Such a Mind will deliberately commit mistakes, stated Lord Krishna.

Most of the foreigners behave without any inhibitions. They speak even the sex issues more openly. Once a foreigner openly asked Swami Vivekananda, “Even though you are an ascetic, you are after all a human being like all of us. Don’t you ever entertain sex desires? Do you hide such desires in you”? For this unexpected query Swami Vivekananda calmly replied, “Those who are involved in spirituality and whose mind is very pure and whose spiritual heart is immersed in Divinity, such a mind will not run after worldly objects and pleasures and hence such a mind will never entertain such thoughts”. It was reported that this serene reply of Swami Vivekananda has electrified the entire audience though their nerves.

Here again we have seen the finite and the infinite states. In the finite state, Sense Control appears to be a very tough task. But all spiritual giants who experienced the infinite blissful state inspire and show us a path to achieve it. Now we shall learn a great lesson for sense control from an incident of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa which he himself revealed. In the infinite state, there will be no beginning or ending; there will be neither good nor bad. Enjoying this infinite state, the spiritual giants reveal their mistakes to the outside world for the benefit of mankind. When Sri Ramakrishna was in a state of Divine fervor during his youth, he checked his status relating to lust. This check is related to his ego consciousness. It is this ego which must be controlled by all. He thought that he has conquered his lust. On the same night, he ejected sperms in sleep without his knowledge. At that time he felt very sorry for it. Since then he never again checked his spiritual status in terms of lust. And this incident has not recurred again. That means as he entered the infinite state, he never felt the need to check his lust again.

Malayala Swami’s book Omkaaram gives us the status of food after its intake. We must learn the status of our food, after its intake, in terms of Sense Control. In a finite state we know that the food we intake is digested, assimilated and later converted into Energy. What happens to it thereafter? Most of us are unaware of it. This energy is further converted into sperms and finally into Aura in a series of steps. So when we achieve sense control our food will be converted into Aura. All great men with their Sense Control will express Aura.

In sanskrit, the Sense Organs are referred to as pills. This means that these sense organs must be put to optimum or limited use. Sensual Pleasures are momentary. For this momentary sensual pleasure, is it necessary for man to keep spirituality at bay? This is not proper. When the spirituality is kept at a distance, such individuals cannot achieve sense control. They will indulge in many shameful acts. So man must feel the need to spiritualize his life through sense control. It is also said that the man's spiritual progress starts only with sense control.

**4). PATIENCE:** As long as we are patient, we will not face any defeat. This is what our elders and religious Masters preach us regarding patience. Have you ever imagined at any time the progress you can achieve with this patience? With this patience, when man makes his spiritual bid, he will transform himself from a finite state to an infinite state.

Most of us say that they lack patience. They express these words in a finite state quite easily. This is not proper. God blesses man with thoughts, words and actions. In our effort, if we are tired with our body, we can give rest to our body and in the meanwhile can work with our words and thoughts. If we utilize our words in a limited way, even verbally we will never be tired. But when we misuse our words then our mind gets disturbed. Until then our mind will remain calm. And when we enter spirituality all our thoughts, words and actions will be put to optimum usage. Under the circumstances, we will never get tired. So there arises no need to lose our patience.

As long as we imbibe spirituality in our daily core of activities, the 3 characteristics of the mind like speed, instability and the fleeting nature will be slowed down. Such a mind will control all its unwanted thoughts and relax a lot to experience the power of the mind. Such a mind relies on the unity of thought, word and deed. All great men enjoyed this unity with patience and achieved their goals.

**5).PERSEVERANCE:** Baba states that Knowledge exists in 5 different states. They are a).Bookish Knowledge, b).Half Knowledge, c).General Knowledge, d).Discriminate Knowledge and e).Practical Knowledge. Practical Knowledge is the real knowledge, says Baba.

Today's children lack clarity over many issues. Hence with ignorance they ask many questions to their parents. And it is pity that the parents are treating this questioning (ignorance) as an intellectual affair. They are unable to respond to their children's queries. Besides this they praise their wards for their queries not knowing the ill effects. Our Intellect is a mind game, which reap temporary benefits. Rama is a man of few words and more actions. A man of actions will entertain few doubts.

As long as man gets involved in this materialistic world, he will become very selfish. He wants to enjoy the fruits of his action all by himself. This is not proper. "Man realizes the real fruits of his action at the time of its execution" says Baba.

Practice is very important. We are attending a dinner. The menu contained a lot of delicious dishes. Are we satisfied just looking at these delicious dishes? No. As an onlooker our hunger persists. So is our knowledge.

How should we practice? Baba explained the phenomenon of 'Poorva Meemaamsa' thus. In every effort, there will be 3 stages. They are 'Karma Yoga', 'Dharma Yoga' and 'Brahma Yoga'. Karma Yoga involves the body effort. Any action without involving our mind will result in failures. So in the Dharma Yoga, it involves the application of our body and the mind. Even Dharma Yoga will not give satisfaction to man. Hence in the third stage, Brahma Yoga, it involves the unity of thought,

word and deed. What is the word? Through the words, we must chant the name of the Lord. In this way, we will involve Divine in all our acts. Acts of Brahma Yoga will be complete in all respects. Acts of Brahma Yoga will limit us to a good path. They will achieve impossible tasks. We will spiritualize all our daily core of activities.

**III.PEACE:** This materialistic world contains no peace. Peace is within us. All Righteous acts will deliver Peace. When we go beyond the dualities of life, we attain Peace. This Peace will confer 3 Divine Attributes. They are Cheerfulness, Satisfaction and Equanimity.

**1).CHEERFULNESS:** “Peace is a permanent entity”, says Baba. Once manifested in us, it will remain forever. Those who enjoy such Eternal Peace will be always cheerful. All those who are involved in spirituality will be winners, says Baba.

**2).SATISFACTION:** As long as man limits to his materialistic approach, he will never be satisfied with his worldly objects, possessions and sensual pleasures. Why? The unstable and the fleeting nature of the mind must be overcome to realize peace of mind. This is possible if we shift from an external outlook to an inward path. Man attains satisfaction only for his spiritual progress.

**3).EQUANIMITY:** This world is full of dualities. Animals do not need these dualities. Only man needs these dualities to achieve progress in his life. As long as man remains materialistic, he will suffer these dualities instead of learning lessons from them. Inward Path and spirituality will enable man to go beyond these dualities and achieve Equanimity.

These worldly dualities promote man’s spiritual progress. Without undergoing sufferings man cannot realize the utility value of happiness. A Victory closely follows a defeat. Day follows a night. It is man’s nature that he likes one of the dualities and dislikes the other. Just because we dislike, we cannot avoid the dualities. In a business a profit-loss scene is common. There is no guarantee that we will always achieve profit in our business. Hence we must develop equanimity towards these dualities of life to enjoy lasting Peace and Bliss.

**IV).LOVE:** God separated Himself from Himself to love Himself. He thereby created this universe to achieve this love. Therefore all creatures of this world are Divine in nature. Among all the creatures, it is man who gets an opportunity to Love His Creator. How lucky is man! But is man fulfilling this duty to love God? How many among us love God? Let’s introspect ourselves.

To develop passion towards God is Love. Our passion towards worldly objects is not Love. It is called bondage. The passion between a man and a woman is called attraction. A mother’s passion for her child is called affection. The love between friends is called friendship. The liking between servants towards his boss is called obedience. The bond between the youngsters towards their elders is called Respect. But today we are expressing the word love for all relations. In the process we are forgetting God. This is not proper. Without loving God we will be limited to a few individuals. But when we start loving God, then we will develop love towards all creatures of God. Man must realize God in all. This is God Realization. Before achieving the goal of God Realization, man must slowly develop true love towards humanity. The nature of our Soul is Bliss. All God Realized souls will experience this infinite bliss.

Today’s man is ignorant of love. He is devoid of true love. He is unable to love his fellow beings around. He must therefore realize the Divinity present in all. He must love all and hate none. We must reduce our selfish tendencies and develop detachment. We must develop a broad vision. We

must achieve purity of mind. Only then we will be in a position to love our fellow beings. Only when we enjoy peace within, we will express true love for others. This true love is selfless, stable and pure. It is beyond the dualities of life. It shows no difference between caste, creed, color, race or religion. It is a great boon to love others. Express true love. We cannot express this true love in words. Mother's love towards her baby can be closely related to this true love, says Baba.

Man must gain some information about this True Love. God is our Father and Mother. We must realize God's love. God is referred to as Kamadhenu (one who fulfills all desires). Example: A newly born baby until he is five or six will be taken with great care by its parents. During this time the child is innocent and hence the parents serve as Kamadhenu to the child. But once the child is above 5 years, he will realize some knowledge and along with it some passion for worldly objects and sensual pleasures. Now the child asks the mother for an Ice cream which does not suit his health. What will the mother do? She rejects her child's request for an ice cream. Before the age of five, the mother fulfilled all the desires of the child as the child is innocent. But after the age of five, the same child will have some options, and due to his ignorance the same mother will be selective in fulfilling the desires of her child. She obliges the good desires and denies the bad desires. In the same way, when we opt for an Inward Path, God will always help us to fulfill our good wishes. Being served by God we will start realizing His True Love. As we understand this true love of God it will promote in us four Divine Attributes. They are Kindness, Forgiveness, Service and Sacrifice.

**1).KINDNESS:** God resides in a kind person's heart. Lord Krishna resides in those men who practice Bhagawad Gita. Those who practice Righteousness will transform their heart into a Rama Temple. In this way God resides in our heart. When Draupadhi was in a serious trouble she called God which expressed a distance, but a little later she called God by that name who resides in her heart. As a resident of her heart, Draupadhi received instant help from the kind and the loving lord. When we expand our spiritual heart as a place of residence to our loving lord, we will experience bliss and kindness.

Divine Attributes are both permanent and infinite in nature. As a human being we can entertain such permanent and infinite entities only in our spiritual heart. We can achieve only temporary happiness from our mind. Thus we must realize the utility value of our spiritual heart.

“Self is lovelessness. Love is selflessness” says Baba. “The more you see yourself in others, the more bliss you enjoy”, says Baba. To what extent you see yourselves in others? Just introspect for yourself. To what extent you are expanding your life? Is it limited to your own self, to your family, to your friends and relatives and to the society around? In order to love others, you must see yourself in others. So in the first step you must love your own self, says Baba. In this materialistic world, it is not possible to expand this Divine Love. Hence select an inward path which sharpens your discrimination and intelligences and thereby expands your spiritual heart.

For acts of kindness, select the needy and the deserving persons. As an act of kindness you need not feed a person who has no hunger. You need not give new clothes to a person who has many clothes. He who has good health needs no medicines. He who has no sufferings needs no help from others. Today in our society, there are many poor people who have no food, no proper clothes to wear, face many financial problems. There are many others who suffer ill health. And there are those who possess all comforts but lack peace of mind. They all need our attention. So we must be kind towards all such individuals.

We all are part of the society. We mutually depend upon each other. If our society is fine, then we will be fine. We must help the needy. Why should we help others? We must help others for our satisfaction. Baba told a story in this regard. The story involves mathematics. There was a person by name Ramu, who was well educated, travelled all over the world and amassed huge wealth. But he has no peace of mind. He approached a spiritual Master and prayed him to drive away his restlessness. He advised Ramu thus. “You have mastered Addition and Multiplication. Now it is time for you to practice Division i.e. you start sharing your wealth with others and see me after one year”. With great respect Ramu obeyed his Master’s advice and shared a lot of his wealth for the welfare activities. One year passed but Ramu was still restless. He again went to his Master and told him that he has obeyed his orders, but still remained restless. He asked Ramu if he has done these activities with ego consciousness. He told that as long as ‘I’ consciousness remains, he will not attain peace of mind. Stating this he advised Ramu that it is time for him to implement ‘Substraction’ now i.e. perform all activities without the feeling of ‘I’. After this advice, Ramu got involved in many welfare activities without ego and attained peace of mind and also infinite bliss. This story reveals the latent potentialities and hurdles involved in the spiritual progress in a technical manner.

**2).FORGIVENESS:** When we express true love towards others, we will not hate anybody. When we do not hate anybody, it becomes easy for us to forgive others. Our Traditions and Culture advise us to help even those who harmed us. Our elders claim that “Forgiveness is the greatest of all virtues”. We are humans. We are aware of the law of Cause and Effect. Knowingly or unknowingly we may commit mistakes. We must correct our mistakes. From the defeat, we will learn the techniques to achieve a victory. In the same way, man must gain knowledge from his mistakes. All great men “Hate Sin and not the Sinner”. Today a person may be a sinner but at a later date he may transform into a virtuous person. In order to encourage this transformation in others, we must forgive others. Even if others harmed us, we must forgive them.

Draupadhi is remembered for her forgiveness. Aswaddhaama killed all the Upa Paandavas (Draupadhi’s five sons) when they are in sleep. Draupadhi was lamenting for her sons death. Aswaddhaama was captured for his crime and brought before Draupadhi. “If Aswaddhaama is killed, then her mother will lose Aswaddhaama. In the Mahabharatha war she just lost her husband. Now if Aswaddhaama is also killed as punishment for his crime, then she will lose her son too”. Thinking on these lines, Draupadhi pardoned Aswaddhaama. Even the paandavas could not relish this forgiveness of Draupadhi. For this act, Draupadhi remained in the annals of our history.

“Forgiving others is a great power”, says Baba. “We must not take advantage of good people and create troubles for them” cautions Baba. Dharma Raja is a man of virtues and righteousness personified. In fact all Paandavas are virtuous men. But Kauravaas created all sorts of troubles to these Paandavas, throughout their lives. But Dharma Raja always forgave them. Once Baba asked “Which Power demolished Kauravaas”? Baba got various replies. Baba corrected them all by saying, “It is the Power of Dharma Raja’s forgiveness which destroyed all the Kauravaas”.

“It is not our duty to decide the good and the bad of an event” says Baba. In this infinite Universe, can man decide the good and the bad of an event? Not possible. Example: Today I have consumed some food. The next day I have ejected it as fecal matter. We are referring the food we consumed as good and the fecal matter as bad. How the good food has turned into bad fecal matter? Has the food consumed by man, a sin? If so, refer another incident. Prepare a delicious pudding. Don’t consume it but leave it aside for 3 days. It will be spoiled and cannot be consumed anymore.

Even without the human consumption, the good delicious pudding has changed into bad spoiled pudding. What mistake has the pudding committed? Nothing.

Men frequently commit mistakes and claims God to pardon their mistakes and God always obliges. Man commits mistakes again and again. God forgives them again and again. Almighty God is always aware of all our mistakes. Because of His infinite love, He is always forgiving us and giving us a chance to rectify and improve. Before God's infinite love where do we stand? Let us all follow God. Let us love our fellow beings and boost our forgiving nature. Let us all pray for the wellbeing of everybody around in our society.

God forgives time and again. This does not mean that he will not punish for our committed sin. We must realize that God is giving many opportunities for us to realize and rectify our mistakes. God never punishes us. Then you may ask, "Why I am suffering. What are the causes of my sufferings"? As per the law of Cause and Effect, we are responsible for our own sufferings. Nobody can escape this law and thereby the punishment. The Omniscient God operates this law. God is an Eternal Witness. To find faults with God for our sufferings is a very big lapse. Avoid it.

**3).SERVICE:** Bhagawan Baba has shown us all the steps involved in the Service.

- 1).We must do service.
- 2).We must do selfless service.
- 3).We must offer our services in a loving manner and not in an unpleasant or uncomfortable way.
- 4).While doing service feel that it is done for your satisfaction, progress and bliss. Never feel that you are benefitting others.
- 5).Both the Doer and the Recipient involved in Service will enjoy bliss.
- 6).God prefers Group Service rather than an Individual activity. Offering Service is a group activity. It helps man to see God in all humans.
- 7).Never do Service with selfish motives, show and pomp. Offer your service with humility and love.
- 8).Offer your service with unity, purity and divinity.
- 9).There must be humility while offering your services.
- 10).You can offer your services even without money. You can offer your thoughts, words and deeds and spare your valuable time for service.
- 11).This world is made up of five Elements. These five elements are God's resources for man. Man must practice ceiling of desires. He must conserve and save Time, money, energy and resources and utilize them for the service of mankind.
- 12).There are 24 hours in a day. Man must spend 6 hours for sleep, 6 hours for his daily routine, 6 hours for his sustenance and maintenance and 6 hours for service says Baba.

13).What is the purpose of this body? Our elders say that this body is meant to serve the mankind. So get involved in service.

14).In our society there are many individuals who fail to meet their daily needs. They silently suffer their poverty. They will not approach anybody for help. We must be aware of such needy and the deserving people and serve them with their needs.

15) Offering services must be a regular act. If a day passes without any service, then it must be termed as a dead day.

16).If it is not possible to offer your services, then no problem, but never interfere to create hurdles to those who are involved in service.

17).Due to old age or due to lack of energy, if you could not partake in service, then no problem. Always encourage and lend your helping hand for a good cause.

18).While offering services never show your miserliness.

Bhagawan Baba in the initial days used to claim “My life is my message”. But in the latter days, Baba proclaimed “Your life is my message”. It is really not possible to describe in detail all the service activities which are conducted under Baba’s guidance. Baba has completed such magnanimous works, that even the Government fails to implement them. The service activities which are taken up by the organization, all over the globe cannot be matched by any person, or any organization in the world. We feel that food, clothing and shelter comprise our daily needs. Along with these three needs, man must add service to his daily list of priorities.

**4).SACRIFICE:** “What is meant by Sacrifice?” Baba asked and replied, “To detach ourselves from Money, Wealth and Family members is not sacrifice. To detach our body attachments is Sacrifice”. When the bond between two objects is broken, it is called Sacrifice, says Baba.

What is the first message of God to man? The answer is “Sacrifice”.

Puttaparthi has developed as a mini world. For such a development, Baba once asked, “What is the reason for the glory of Puttaparthi”? Nobody could give a proper reply. Baba replied, “Where there is Sacrifice, there will be glory”.

“Our birth, our actions and our righteousness may not deliver the desired fruits of our action but the fruits of our sacrifice will instantly deliver results” says Baba as a message of Ramayana. This is a great message for all of us. In our daily life, we lack clarity over many issues. In our society we see many individuals who claim that they are passing through a lean trot, and hence are sitting idle during this lean trot. This attitude is not proper. When we are passing a lean trot man must involve in sacrificial acts and get habituated to good things in life. When we get habituated to good things in life during this lean trot, we attain the good period quickly. Everyone must realize this Truth.

We perform many fire rituals like Yagnams. In these fire rituals we put many offerings in the sacred fire. But Baba advises us to offer our ignorance in this sacred fire.

We must learn to sacrifice. Hindus follow a tradition of sacrificing a thing which they like most in the river Ganges. Once they make this sacrifice they will not utilize this commodity again in their life.

If we want to give something to others, what will we give? We will give those things which we like the most. We never give those things which others dislike. But do you know what God is expecting from us as our sacrifice? God is very happy to receive our sins. Who on Earth will receive others sins? Can we accept others sins and bad effects from others? No. We never in our life entertain such thoughts. It is here we must realize the infinite love of God towards humanity. With this infinite love God is always supporting us by all means and ways, under all circumstances.

**V).NON VIOLENCE:** Man must shower his love towards the humanity. Example: Mahatma Gandhi led the freedom movement to attain Independence for India in a non violent path. What are the salient features of a non violent path? It is a safe path. People of all ages can participate in it. It is an efficient path as it conserves our energies and at the same time touches the heart of the opponent.

Prasanthi Nilayam is the abode of highest peace in the world. People from all over the globe visited Parthi to see their God in Baba. Baba strengthened all the religions. People from all walks of life and religions all over the globe made frequent visits to improve their spirituality. The teachings of Baba have universal acceptance and application.

To express love is not a part time affair. As a member of SSSS Organization, offering 4 hours of service per week is considered as active sevadal. But Baba stated that every individual must do 6 hours of service daily. There is a huge gap between Baba's message and the active sevadal's involvement. The SSSS Organizations must plan the activities in such a way, so as to enable 6 hours of service on daily basis. If we do service for 6 hours per day then such individuals can express love for 24 hours of the day in the next step.

A beginner will have many doubts. He feels that he cannot spare one hour per day, or one hour per week. As a beginner, I said 'no' to my mother to join the SSSS Organization. But my mother initially persuaded me and later pushed me into the Organization. From such a start, I quickly improved. I relished doing service. After joining the SSSS Organization I improved leaps and bounds. This is the status of most of the beginners. They deny. But there must be somebody to push them into the Organization for service. If they really taste the fruits of service, love etc, then there will be no more looking back.

Non Violence promotes two Divine Attributes.

**1).COMPASSION:** Once Baba clarified the difference between Kindness and Compassion. Generally we think that both mean the same. In Kindness we will observe the Giver as well as the Recipient. But in Compassion the Giver and the Recipient are not observed. Here in Compassion both the Giver and the Recipient will be God only.

In the acts of Kindness, we may feel the need of a few conditions to implement the benevolent acts. But in the acts of Compassion, there will be a free flow of love without any conditions.

**2).FATHERHOOD OF GOD AND BROTHERHOOD OF MAN:** Bhagawan Baba promoted all religions. His message has universal application. Baba never advocated any person to change his religion. All religions teach us what is good and what is bad; what is temporary and what is permanent; what is truth and what is untruth? Hindus following the advice of Baba has been transformed into better Hindus. Christians in the presence of Baba have been transformed into better Christians. Muslims have transformed into better Muslims. In this way, in the presence of Baba, every

individual is making spiritual progress. “God is one. All men are Divine”. We all experience this feeling in Baba’s presence.

Will all religions unite? Can they all speak on a common platform? If so where, When, and How? 100 years back Swami Vivekananda has expressed his anguish. We see the answer at Puttaparthi. Puttaparthi is a mini world. People from all over the globe reach Puttaparthi to visit Sathya Sai Baba.

Once, an MP from Orissa visited Baba at Puttaparthi. “How do you implement the development program?” Baba asked the MP. The MP replied that they implement the 5-year plans to achieve development. Baba then asked the MP, “Do you know how God implements His Development Programs?” The MP replied in the negative. Baba replied, “God will implement 16-year programs to implement His Mission. In the first 16-year plan Divine manifests His Plays. Through Miracles the second 16-year plan will attract his devotees from all over the Globe. Through the third 16-year program the Lord (Baba) delivered His Universal Message. The fourth 16-year program saw the implementation of Educare to the students. And the fifth 16-year plan saw the implementation of Major Service activities”. The MP then asked Baba, “Tell us about your sixth 16-year program”. Baba responded by saying, “The implementation of Sanathana Dharma” (The Eternal Religion). Generally everybody feels that Sanathana Dharma is limited for only Hindus. But Baba clarified that Sanathana Dharma is meant for all religions. Realising this Truth I felt very happy.

Gayatri Mantra is the most auspicious Mantra for Hindus. This Mantra is related to our Intelligences. God’s boon to man is Intelligence. Baba explained the Mantra, letter by letter, and stated that this Mantra must be chanted by men of all religions. In Puttaparthi you will experience an eighth wonder. You will not believe your own eyes. This is related to chanting of Vedam by the foreigners. Even the Hindus opine that chanting of Vedam is a difficult process. But in the Divine presence of Baba, not only Hindus but many foreigners will join chorus while chanting Vedam. We cannot express this scenario in words. It must be seen to be believed.

Here is another incident related to promote Brotherhood of Man. Once, Kaw (an IAS Officer) explained his personal experience. He first saw Baba at New Delhi. During Darshan, Baba came near Kaw and materialized a Golden Ring for Kaw and stated, “God will instantly materialize a Golden Ring, whereas a Goldsmith will take 15 days to prepare a new Gold Ring”. (Just a few days before Baba’s Darshan, Kaw gave an order for a Golden Ring with a Goldsmith and the Goldsmith asked for a fortnight to deliver the ring). How Baba came to know about this Goldsmith’s order? Thereafter Kaw made many visits to Baba at Puttaparthi. For these visits, Kaw has gained a lot of information regarding the Human Values. When Mr.Kaw was working as PA to the Central Education Minister at New Delhi, an incident happened. Our India is a Secular Country. On this sacred land many great souls have been born. In the School curriculum, to inspire the children, we come across the incidents of these great souls. So far so good. India being a Secular Country will honour all religions. The Education curriculum not only contained the life sketches of Indian great men but also of other religious great men too. But being India, it contained more of such information related to great Indian souls. This was not relished by other religions. They all made a complaint to the Central Education Minister in this regard stating that Hinduism is forcibly taught to their wards in schools. Neither the Education Minister nor these religious representatives lacked clarity over the Human Values. As a result, the Education Minister in ignorance remained calm to this complaint. Mr.Kaw who has gained much authority over the Human Values, took the opportunity and addressed the gathering thus, “All men must practice the 5 Human Values irrespective of their religion. These Human Values are Truth,

Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non Violence. All great men irrespective of their religion practiced these human values only under all odds. As such these human values have Universal bearing. These human values are not limited to just Hindus. They belong to all religions. The lives of all great men with their human values will inspire all mankind". With these words, the much needed clarification over the issue was obtained and the religious representatives left the venue silently. All are good. All want good. But due to ignorance we sometimes fail to realize our latent virtues. The present day world is suffering with this ignorance. All men irrespective of their religion must gain knowledge about these Human Values. If this knowledge is gained then Brotherhood of Man is not an impossible task. In one of His message Baba stated that the Mission of His incarnation is to make every human realize the Knowledge of Human Values and later implement them in practice.

In the name of religion never argue. Never entertain differences of opinion. Never develop hatred. Any religion will teach only Good things of life. Every religion will teach religious tolerance. People with external vision will see Diversity in Unity, whereas people with Inward Path will see Unity in Diversity. How is this Unity? "There is only one religion, the Religion of Love. There is only one Caste, the Caste of Humanity. There is only one Language, the Language of our Heart. There is only one God, He is Omnipresent" says Baba. Hence spiritual knowledge and implementation of the Human Values is very essential for man to go beyond these religious differences and realize the Brotherhood of Man.

Now let us gain some information relating to "Fatherhood of God". There is only ONE GOD for this entire Universe, and He is OMNIPRESENT. All men must gain spiritual knowledge and realize the latent Divinity in them to accept the Fatherhood of God. God Almighty as an Incarnation has taken the form of Sathya Sai Baba of Puttaparthi, and established Himself as the Fatherhood of God. All those who have realized the Formless Attributes of the Supreme Lord will accept the Fatherhood of God. But how about the rest? They must be convinced with facts. People from all corners of the world are visiting Bhagawan Baba. Why are they doing so? There are innumerable incidents. Let's learn a few such incidents. Christians see Christ in Baba. Muslims see their Allah in Baba. Buddhists see Buddha in Baba.

To state that Bhagawan Baba is Christ Himself, here is an interesting narration. Once, a Christian couple from USA visited Baba at Parthi. The husband loves both Christ and Baba, but his wife is an ardent devotee of only Christ. She was not interested to see Baba. On her husband's request she agreed to accompany him to Baba but on few conditions. She will never adore Baba. Her husband accepted to her conditions. The couple stayed in Puttaparthi for some time. Just before their departure from Puttaparthi, Baba gave this couple an interview. In the interview room, this lady clicked both Baba and her husband standing side by side. As it was departure time, they left to USA. They developed the photo film in USA. To the surprise of one and all, there was Jesus in Baba's spot. This lady who loved Jesus so much and behaved so reluctantly towards Baba during her first visit to Baba, with this experience has thereafter became a very ardent devotee of Bhagawan Baba.

Here is an incident which narrates that Bhagawan Baba is Allah. It was a Muslim country. There was a Muslim (I don't remember his name and the country now) who used to pray, "Where are You Oh Allah!" In a dream, Baba responded the Muslim, "I am in Puttaparthi". This Muslim has never heard of this Place Puttaparthi in the past. Treating it as a dream he ardently prayed again to Allah. He again got the same dream. This time he enquired his friends and learned about Puttaparthi. Muslims adore God in His Formless Attributes. Muslims never pray God giving Him a form. For this reason, in order to see his Allah, this Muslim stated other reasons to his family members, and without

intimating anybody at his workplace, reached Puttaparthi all alone. He stayed in Puttaparthi for one month. Baba in this one month neither talked nor gave any interview to this Muslim. It was time for him to depart Puttaparthi. During his last Darshan, Baba came to this Muslim and said, "Go to your place and join your duty". This Muslim returned back home to his country. Before leaving for India he has not intimated or claimed any leave from his work place. But Baba told him to join his duty at back home. Having Faith in Baba, and giving respect to Baba's words, he met the Boss in his Office and told him the events of the past one month and requested him to permit him to continue his job. The Boss was perplexed to hear these words. The reason being, it seems that this Muslim has not left the work place in the last one month. What does this mean? This means that Allah has worked in this Muslim's guise during the past one month. This incident has not transformed just one Muslim, but many Muslims who heard this information.

Bhagawan Baba is Goutham Buddha Himself. We have another interesting incident to state this. Once, there lived a Buddhist couple in Japan. They had no children for a long time. For their fervent prayers a son was born. But the boy was born dead and the mother of the boy was still unconscious. At the time of delivery there was nobody by their side. The father took this dead boy into his hands and placed at the feet of Lord Buddha and prayed ardently to inject life into this boy. The dead boy gained life. This couple has not revealed this incident (miracle) to anybody. This son has grown up big and became a scientist, and attended the International Conference in NGRI at Hyderabad. Mr. Balakrishna was the Director of NGRI at that time. Mr. Balakrishna's house was very near to his Institute. This Japan Scientist visited Balakrishna's house and saw Baba's life size picture there and asked him who He was? Balakrishna told him some details of Baba's Divinity. At that time, Bhagawan Baba was in Hyderabad. Balakrishna, who is a keen disciple of Baba took this Japan Scientist to Sivam (Baba's Temple in Hyderabad). Baba called them for an interview. In the interview room Baba created a Heart shaped doll and giving it to the Japan Scientist told him, "This is your Heart. Responding to your father's ardent prayers at the time of your birth, I started the functioning of your Heart". The Japan Scientist was astonished to hear these words of Baba. How come Baba knew about this information? The answer is very simple. He is Gouthama Buddha Himself.

There is a woman by name Peddabottu (Gaal Sarada Devi) who wrote around some ten books on Baba. In one of the book, Peddabottu addressed Baba as "As a collection of all Divine Souls". Peddabottu took this book to get Baba's Blessings. For many days Baba has not seen this book. But on one day, as she just opened the book, to her surprise, some corrections were already made in the book. Who made these corrections? Who can it be? He is Baba Himself. This phrase was automatically got corrected as "That Divine Phenomenon which is beyond the collection of all Divine Souls".

There are many deities for Hindus. They are Rama, Krishna, Vinayaka, Subrahmanya, Durga, Dattatreya, Siva, the Sun and the Moon etc. There are many incidents to devotees in which Bhagawan Baba appeared before them in their favorite deities forms. All the above incidents enable us to realize that the Divine Phenomenon is the same for the entire humanity.

If that is so, then there arises another question. Why God always incarnates in India? The Supreme Lord can incarnate in all countries. Is it not? For this query Baba Himself replied thus. "This entire Universe is the Mansion of the Supreme Lord. As there are so many countries in this world, similarly there will be so many rooms in this mansion. In this Mansion there will be a Pooja Room (Place of Worship). India is a Pooja Room for God. The remaining rooms are referred to as different countries. God can move from one country to another country in a thrice".

What is the reason for the Supreme Lord to refer India as His Pooja Room? We all know, a rolling stone gathers no mass. In the same way the Supreme Lord dictated the Sanathana Dharma (The Eternal Religion) in India. The Traditions and Culture of India is highly appreciated. It will be an easy task for the Supreme Lord (Incarnation) to set right the follies from the same place with the passage of time. All Indians must learn a great lesson from Sathya Sai Baba's revelation. All Indians must give importance and follow their Traditions and Culture. But sorry to say, that Indians are attracted by Western Culture. On the other hand, the Westerners who are realizing the greatness of Indian Traditions and Culture are implementing them in their daily core of activities. At Puttaparthi it is a treat to watch them speak of the glory of Indian Traditions and Culture.

What is so great about Indian Traditions and Culture? Indians follow Sanathana Dharma (The Eternal Religion). Our Traditions and Culture enable us to realize Divinity in all living beings and non living beings. Cream is latent in milk. Salt is latent in Seawater. Fire is latent in Firewood. Fragrance is latent in a Flower. In the same way man must learn to realize Divinity in all objects in this Universe.

Coming back to the Brotherhood of man, let us learn what Baba has told about 'HINDU'. The word HINDU has five alphabets. Baba explained the word HINDU as follows.

H -> HUMILITY

I -> INDIVIDUALITY

N -> NATIONALITY

D -> DIVINITY

U -> UNITY

Thus the Brotherhood of Man gains significance with these five qualities. All those individuals who follow these five qualities of Sanathana Dharma are referred to as HINDUS, says Baba.

God is only one for all. He is not just limited to the Human beings alone. He is the only one for this entire universe and its creatures. How can you grasp this? Once, Bhagawan Baba was giving Darshan to his devotees. During Darshan time nobody must get up from their seats. On one occasion, as Baba was walking around giving Darshan, a small sharp plant twig was seen in the path. The college students saw this twig. They thought that this twig may hurt Baba's feet. They were in a dilemma. Should they violate discipline and remove the twig? Baba is nearing this twig. Just as Baba was nearing this twig, a Sparrow picked up the twig with its beak and flew off. The students were surprised for this unexpected scenario. In the next scene, Baba stood before these students and told them "You think that only humans will participate in My Divine Mission. No. All living creatures will participate in My Mission".

## 4. COMPILATION OF A BOOK WITH SPIRITUAL ALPHABETS

There are only 26 alphabets in the English literature. With these 26 alphabets we find innumerable books in the English literature. In the same way, if we want to learn any language, we must start with alphabets first.

In the present day there are hundreds of languages all over the globe. For all these languages, there are alphabets. Spirituality belongs to the entire humanity. Like any language, even Spirituality is like an Ocean in terms of the available literature (the books) . But where are the alphabets for Spirituality? There is no answer for this query. Without learning the alphabets we cannot explore the language. The status of spirituality is like an ocean for all of us. Under these circumstances without learning alphabets can we explore this spirituality? Not possible. So what can be the alphabets of spirituality? Based on the messages of Bhagawan Baba, by His Grace and Blessings, 60 alphabets related to spirituality have been briefed so far.

In any language we can gain command over that particular language only when we learn the alphabets. There is English language. We learn the alphabets A, B, C, D and so on. After learning the alphabets, we will next learn how to form a WORD with these alphabets. Later after learning the words, we will form a SENTENCE with the combination of words. Further ahead, we form a PARAGRAPH with a group of sentences. And with the help of Paragraphs we form a LESSON. A BOOK is compiled with a number of lessons. In this way a number of books are available in every language, with the help of basic alphabets.

Today we are of the opinion that Devotion and the Spirituality mean the same. What is our status today? Without learning the spiritual alphabets, we are clubbing together spirituality and devotion as one single entity. This is not correct. Today, without learning spiritual alphabets, we feel that Devotion means God and God means Devotion. In this way, we are limiting to the unseen phenomenon God. Man is a finite entity but God is an infinite entity. Man needs a lot of clarity with regard to spirituality, the unseen phenomenon of God. How can a finite man explore the infinite God? Not possible from a finite state. Then what is the way? Man must go beyond his limitations. How this is feasible? Baba states that “Man must first realize his own lapses, rectify his mistakes and not repeat them again”. What does this mean to man? Man must progress from a finite state to an infinite state and realize the Formless attributes of the Lord. All those individuals who think that spirituality means God and devotion must realize what spirituality means from Baba’s statement. They must thereafter make efforts for self improvement i.e. learn the spiritual alphabets first. In this context let us recollect the 60 alphabets once again (Do not think they were repeated again).

In order to improve our spirituality, we have to practice the six pre-requisites. They are 1).Good Behavior, 2).Intelligence, 3).Always Follow Truth, 4).Discipline, 5).Devotion and 6).Duty.

Our Mind is responsible for all our actions. We must keep our mind trim under all conditions. It must be pure. The six impurities which impure our Mind are 1).Desires, 2).Anger, 3).Miserliness,4).Attraction to worldly objects,5).Pride and 6).Jealousy. Mind has four characteristics. They are 1).Speed, 2).Instability, 3).Fleeting Nature and 4).Power of the Mind. In order to enjoy the Power of the mind, the mind must be habituated to six virtues. They are 1).Follow an Inward Path,2)Sense Control,3).Direct our Mind to Divine Proximity, 4).Going beyond the Dualities of life,

5).Showing attention towards good things of life and 6).Following the Indweller’s advice. With these six virtues all the impurities of the mind will be taken care of, apart from controlling the three characteristics of the mind like speed, instability and its fleeting nature.

We must transfer our thoughts from our Mind to our Intelligences. Our Intelligences which works beyond the senses will discriminate our thoughts and decide the good and the bad. After this discrimination we will implement good thoughts and avoid the bad thoughts. We are ably supported by our Intelligences in 11 ways. They are 1).Childlike Intelligence,2).Discriminative Intelligence, 3).Common Intelligence, 4).Unbiased Intelligence, 5).Selfless Intelligence, 6).Stable Intelligence, 7).Decision making Intelligence, 8).Analytic Intelligence, 9).Creative Intelligence, 10).Farmer’s Intelligence and 11).Mature Intelligence.

With the help of our intelligences our spiritual heart will expand to infinity. But due to habits our spiritual heart is very selfish (condensed). The four habits which condense our spiritual heart are 1).Violence, 2).Invading others, 3). Comparison with others and 4).To defend one’s own actions. God resides in our heart. We must remove these habits to realize our Indweller within us. What is the way to prevent these habits? Practice of the human values is the only solution. The five human values are 1).Truth, 2).Righteousness, 3).Peace, 4).Love and 5).Non Violence.

In our society we must implement the Human Values all the while. In our society, based on his behavior, man is differentiated into four types. They are 1).Animal in man, 2).Demon in man, 3).Man in man and 4).God in man. Baba told that when Human Values are continuously implemented, God will bless them with 18 Divine Attributes. Truth will promote 4 Divine Attributes. They are 1).Fearlessness, 2).Courage, 3).Humility and 4).Detachment. Righteousness will confer five Divine Qualities. They are 1).Duty, 2).Discipline, 3).Sense Control, 4).Patience and 5).Perseverance. Peace enables three Divine Attributes. They are 1).Satisfaction, 2).Cheerfulness and 3).Equanimity. Love promotes 4 Divine Attributes. They are 1).Kindness, 2).Forgiveness, 3).Service and 4).Sacrifice. Non Violence will confer two Divine Attributes. They are 1).Compassion and 2).Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man.

Pre-requisites of Spirituality	6
Impurities of the Mind	6
Virtues of the Mind	6
Characteristics of the Mind	4
Types of Intelligence	11
Habits that condense our heart	4
Human Values that broaden our heart	5
Divine Attributes that reside in our heart	18
Spiritual Alphabets	60

**COMPILING A WORD WITH THE SPIRITUAL ALPHABETS:** In English after learning the alphabets we will start forming words like C, A, T->CAT, B, A, T ->BAT etc. In the same way with

the 60 Alphabets of Spirituality, we will compile a WORD. That means spiritually let us make some further advance. The word we are compiling is 'RIGHTEOUSNESS'. What Baba taught us about Righteousness must be learned by one and all.

**THE NATURE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:** We all feel that when Righteousness diminishes, God will descend on Earth to set right Righteousness. This is not correct, says Baba. Righteousness is a stable entity. It will not change with time. It will neither diminish nor enhance with time. To understand this let us analyze a small sum. This sum is  $2 * 2 = 4$ . This sum will remain forever.  $2 * 2$  will never become 3 or 5. It will remain four. In the same way, Righteousness remains stable and unchanged with time. Then what is the need for God to descend on Earth? Baba states, "The nature of Righteousness will not change. But its implementation is decreasing. God descends on Earth to promote the implementation of Righteousness by men in the society". What is the nature of Righteousness? Righteousness has 7 features in it. Lack of any of the 7 features means it is not Righteousness. What are these 7 features? They are 1).Truth, 2).Character, 3).Duty, 4).Sense Control, 5).Sacrifice, 6).Non Violence and 7).Penance. In His message Baba briefed all these 7 features and summed up the narration with a nice story. Once, there lived a thief in a village. Let us observe the 7 features of the thief. The thief will speak untruth. He maintains a bad character. During night he spends without sleep. And during day, in order to get sleep, he boozes. What is the duty of the thief? The thief rob others possessions. The thief has no sense control. Lacking sacrifice, he plans to loot others wealth. While committing theft, in order to escape from capture, he never hesitates to commit violence. And how is his penance? He always plans his robberies beforehand. In this way, the thief is leading his life. One night he entered a village. At that time a Saint was delivering a lecture. The thief who happened to listen to his message was impressed. The saint has many disciples. This thief approached the Saint and requested him to accept him as his disciple. The Saint made a personal enquiry about the thief. The thief revealed that he is a thief. The Saint asked a few more questions to this thief. "I will accept you as my disciple if you give up your robberies", asked the Saint. "No. I cannot give up the robberies, as it is my livelihood (duty)". "I will accept you as my disciple, if you give up drinking" asked the Saint. "No. During day time I want rest. And in order to sleep, I have to drink", replied the thief. "Can you stop violence?" the Saint asked. "No. In order to escape punishment and captivity, I cannot give up violence" replied the thief. In a similar way the Saint asked a few more questions related to Sense Control, Penance and Sacrifice, for which the thief replied in the negative. The Saint then asked, "I shall accept you as my disciple, if you always speak Truth". The thief thought for a while and replied that he will abide to speak truth always. The thief promised the saint that he will continue as a thief, but will never speak untruth. The thief left the saint. "For how long shall I continue with small robberies? If I rob the King then I will become rich", pondering so, one night the thief entered the roof of the King's Palace. During that time there were many small Kingdoms. That night, the King unable to sleep came to the Palace Terrace to enjoy the night breeze. The King observed the thief and asked him who he was. The thief replied that he is a thief. The thief then asked the King about his whereabouts. The King replied that he was also a thief. "Let us loot the King's exchequer and share the booty", told the thief to the King. The King in disguise accepted the thief's proposal, went inside the Palace and brought the keys of the Exchequer. The thief went inside and opened the King's locker. The King's locker contained 3 precious Diamonds apart from other valuables. The thief thought that one Diamond will serve his life through. Thinking so, he took only two Diamonds from the locker, keeping one Diamond for himself and the other Diamond for the King. The thief after giving the Diamond to the King was leaving to his place. The King called the thief and enquired the place of his residence. The thief told the place of his address and left the place. The next day morning the King was informed about the robbery. The King assembled the Court and brought the thief to the Court. The thief because of the darkness could not realize the King. He

accepted his crime. He told the King that he robbed two Diamonds and shared one Diamond with another thief. In order to check the thief's words, the King has sent his Minister for confirmation. The Minister went to the locker and found out that only two Diamonds were robbed. Seeing the third Diamond, the Minister developed a desire to possess it. He put the third Diamond in his pocket, came to the Court and told the King that the thief is speaking lies and that not two but all the three Diamonds were robbed by the thief. The King who knows the truth immediately checked and realized the third Diamond from the Minister. For this crime, the King can give death sentence to the Minister, but instead has pushed him out of his Kingdom. Any King needs sincere men to support him in his affairs. He realized the thief's integrity towards speaking truth. Even though a thief, the King decided that he can mend his habits to suit his needs. Thinking so, the King appointed the thief as his minister? As a Minister total transformation of the thief has taken place. Now what is the Minister's duty? As a Minister he has to look after the welfare of the people. His character changed for the better. Without being good, how can he advice others? Thus he developed all good qualities. He developed sense control. Now he is always involved in the welfare measures of the people (Penance and Sacrifice). In the process he completely gave up violence. Have you observed the transformation that has taken place in thief? How was this possible? This is how the Righteousness works. Of the 7 features of Righteousness, if we hold on to one feature firmly, then the remaining 6 features will be added to us automatically. After hearing this Knowledge related to Righteousness, I felt bliss for many days. This is to understand how to form a word with alphabets.

**COMPILING A SENTENCE WITH THE COMBINATION OF SPIRITUAL WORDS:** We have just now learned the word 'Righteousness' which is comprised of 7 alphabets (7 features). Now we shall compile a sentence with the combination of spiritual words. The sentence that we shall learn is all about "9 forms of Devotion". What are these 9 forms of Devotion? "They are not independent paths. They are 9 steps" corrected Baba explaining this topic. As long as we learn about the 9 forms of Devotion as different paths of Devotion, then within few days, we will forget a few of them. But if you learn these 9 forms of Devotion as 9 steps of Devotion, then we will not only remember their sequence quite easily but will not forget any of these 9 steps either. What does this mean to us? The sequence of words required to form a sentence to give a specific meaning will always remain the same. With the change in sequence or words, the meaning of the sentence will change. Now we are learning the sentence (9 forms of Devotion) forming with 9 spiritual words. The 9 steps of Devotion as narrated by Baba – in his own words - as follows. "To begin with, the devotees will HEAR (Sravanam) about Me and My glory. Later they SING (Keerthanam) my glory. Later they will CONTEMPLATE (Smaranam) on My name while doing all their daily activities. With this contemplation they will develop a desire to see Me. They will come to Puttaparthi and REVERE MY FEET (Paada Sevanam). After My Darshan, before leaving back to their homes they will buy My picture and place it in their Worship Room. They will then offer SALUTATIONS (Vandanam) daily. Later they will start performing the RITUALS (Archanam) during worship time. They believe Me as God. With this Faith they treat Me as their boss and they convert themselves as my SERVANTS (Daasyam). God does not want to see his devotees as servants forever. So I will treat them as my FRIENDS (Sakhya). You don't know about yourself but you will very soon realize that I know each and every detail of yours. You will feel that I know what is good and what is bad for you. With this realization you will SURRENDER (Aatma Nivedanam) to Me. In this way Bhagawan Baba has clearly explained the 9 steps of Devotion involved in our spiritual progress.

**COMPILING A PARAGRAPH WITH A GROUP OF SENTENCES:** We have formed a word with a group of letters. This word is Righteousness. Next we formed a sentence with a bunch of words. This sentence is the 9 steps of Devotion. Now we shall form a PARAGRAPH with a group of

sentences. And this paragraph is related to “ACTION”. The knowledge of Action is well narrated by Lord Krishna to the humanity. This knowledge of Action will help man in his spiritual progress.

**KNOWLEDGE REGARDING ACTION:** Every Action has to be dealt with 7 characteristics. With the help of Sathwa, Rajas and Tamasik qualities, four of the seven characteristics have been explained. Before learning the 7 characteristics of an Action, we must gain some more information regarding an Action. 1).What Action we are going to undertake? 2).How to perform that Action? 3).Why do we opt for this Action? 4).What is the nature of the person who attempts an Action (Sathwa? Or Rajas? Or Tamasik?) Everybody will attempt the same work, but will complete it in different ways.

Now we shall learn about the 7 characteristics of an Action. They are 1).Vision of the work, 2).Nature of the work, 3).Discrimination involved in an action, 4).Execution of an action, 5).Faith, 6).Trust and 7).Bliss.

**1).VISION OF AN ACTION:** Sathwik people following an Inward Path will realize unity in diversity. Rajasik people with their External Vision, ego, desires, pomp, show and bondage will see diversity in unity. Tamasik people in ignorance will not have any goals and hence will have no vision.

**2).NATURE OF THE ACTION:** Before attempting an action, the Sathwik men will express kindness, love, humility and a disciplined effort. Rajasik men will express selfish tendencies, difficulties involved and the problems that may arise in the action. These men express that they are ready to opt the unrighteous means to achieve their goals. And coming to the Tamasik people they will not show any interest or hold any responsibility in an action.

**3).DISCRIMINATION OF AN ACTION:** Sathwik men before attempting an action will apply their discrimination to differentiate the good and bad acts, the permanence and the temporary bearing of an action and the truth and the untruth involved in an action. With this discrimination they will attempt only good acts. And coming to the Rajasik men, with Discrimination they can analyze the pros and the cons of an action, but in order to fulfill their desires they are ready to follow a wrong path. And coming to the Tamasik men they lack knowledge and discrimination and hence lack proper knowledge of an action.

**4).EXECUTION OF AN ACTION:** The Sathwik men will implement their actions with love, humility, selflessness, sacrificial attitude, aiming for perfection in a disciplined way. With their efficiency they set themselves as ideals for others to follow. The Rajasik men while attempting their actions will crave for Name and Fame, Pomp and Show and Selfishness. And coming to the Tamasik men they follow no work ethics. They lack aim, discipline and discrimination while executing their actions. They lack decency in executing their works. In their works, they reveal their ignorance, deceit and arrogance.

**5).FAITH:** Every individual must develop clarity of an action that they undertake. As per the Law of Cause and Effect everyone must be aware of the fact that good actions will yield good results and bad actions will yield sufferings. We must attempt every action having full faith in the result it delivers to us.

**6).TRUST:** The acts we perform will be monitored by a Divine Phenomenon. In our daily life, our acts are monitored by many individuals. At home the children are monitored by their parents; at

School the children are monitored by their teachers; and in the work places we are being monitored by our Bosses. If there is no such monitoring, good actions will not be acknowledged.

In the same way this entire creation is being monitored by the unseen Divine Phenomenon. The entire resources belong to our Supreme Lord, who constantly monitors our actions and rewards fruits for our actions. So develop this Trust towards our Supreme Lord. If we enjoy His Trust and capabilities, then we will limit to good actions only.

**7).BLISS:** Man is an embodiment of the Divine Soul. He must have knowledge about his actions. Man lacking this knowledge is leading an external life and hence is unable to realize his true self. He lacks Self Knowledge. So man must follow the Inward Path to screen all his actions. Those who follow an Inward Path will not only limit to good acts, but also gains a lot of self knowledge to progress from a finite to an infinite state and enjoy infinite bliss for his good actions.

God with His infinite love guides man at every possible step. Lord Krishna has made a few suggestions to man. 1). Man must utilize his discrimination to get detached from worldly attractions (bondages) and not to become slaves to the external worldly objects. 2). Man must limit to good acts to lead a pious and sacred life to enable Divine Grace. 3). In a selfless way man must attempt good acts. 4). There are no short cuts for progress. All those who want to achieve high goals must succeed only through practice. 5). Man must maintain purity of mind and unity of thought, word and deed. 6).Life is not a bed of roses. It contains thorns too. So we must take the necessary precautions while marching ahead. Human life is very precious. Realizing the significance of Human Birth, man must be aware of the Divine origin, potentialities and Attributes.

**COMPILATION OF A LESSON WITH A SERIES OF SPIRITUAL PARAGRAPHS:** let us learn a spiritual lesson, compiled by a series of spiritual paragraphs. Once in the interview room a foreigner requested Baba to drive out his restlessness. Baba materialized a Bike and gave it to him. In one of the wheels of the Bike, there was a WATCH fixed in it. This foreigner has great liking for Bikes. Thinking this way, he thought that Baba has materialized a bike for him and not realized the message of the Bike. In this context, those men who sat next to him have explained him the message of the WATCH. Those who watch their words, actions, thoughts, character and their heart will enjoy peace.

**WATCH:** The word WATCH has five letters in it. They are W, A, T, C, H. The message of WATCH is as follows.

W => Watch your Words.

A => Watch your Actions.

T => Watch your Thoughts.

C => Watch your Character.

H => Watch your Heart.

Baba gave an important message in a simple way in the form of a WATCH.

**COMPILATION OF A BOOK WITH THE HELP OF SPIRITUAL LESSONS:** Veda Vyaasa wrote Maha Bhaagavatham. It is a great epic. Once, Veda Vyaasa was asked to tell the summary of this Maha bhaagavatham. He expressed the summary as follows.

LOVE ALL

SERVE ALL

HELP EVER

HURT NEVER

Today after joining the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organizations, we learn and experience the above message and in the process attain spiritual progress. We move from a finite “I” to an infinite “We”. If we carefully observe the activities of the Organization, they will follow the above message in thought, word and deed. In this context, Bhagawan Baba in His initial days used to say, “MY LIFE IS MY MESSAGE”. But later on He used to say, “YOUR LIFE IS MY MESSAGE”. This shows how the devotees transform following their Master. The entire spiritual transformation of man from finite state to infinite state has been expressed through this revelation. We must not remain as onlookers to such an Avataric Mission.

What is the goal of these 60 Spiritual Alphabets? It enables us to explore the ocean of Spirituality. What can be the outcome of this spirituality? God Realization, Bliss and Knowledge. We realize for ourselves that there is only one religion – the religion of love. There is only one Caste – The caste of Humanity. There is only one Language – The Language of the Heart. There is only one God – He is Omnipresent.

How is this blissful state? Bliss means permanent happiness. How is this permanent state of happiness? This state enjoys online contact with the Divine. This state is free from Ego, Bondages, Hatred and Worldly attractions. This state enjoys the purity of the mind by lacking the 6 sins. This state enjoys the support of the 6 virtues. This state enjoys the power of the Mind. This state blends itself into a spiritual life with Good Behavior, Good Intelligence, Always Follow Truth, Discipline, Devotion and Duty bound in their daily core of activities. This state is devoid of bad habits. This state is led by the five human values. The spiritual heart is blossomed with Divine Attributes.

This blissful state shares love with others. This state sees no differences between caste, creed, color, race and religion. This state accepts the dualities with equanimity. This state sincerely wishes for the welfare of his fellow beings. This state melts at the sufferings of others. This state realizes and implements the truth that this body is meant for others service. This state enjoys a meaningful, eventful and blissful life. This state has no parallels.

## 5. EXERCISING OUR MIND

Until now we have learned about the 60 alphabets of Spirituality. With these alphabets, in a series of steps we have learned how we can reach a book. After learning the alphabets we have to put these steps into practice. Our mother is our first tutor. She teaches us the alphabets A,B,C etc. Later she will help us form words with these alphabets, sentences with the help of these words, Paragraphs with the help of sentences, Lessons with the help of paragraphs and a book with the help of lessons. In the same way, after learning the 60 alphabets of spirituality, we must practice further. How?

The purpose of spirituality is to realize our own lapses and rectify them. As long as we are ignorant with lapses we will remain in a finite state without progress. When we rectify our lapses, we will gain knowledge to progress into an infinite state. This progress is not achieved in a single day. This progress must be achieved gradually.

How this spiritual practice should continue? Here is our mind. It is tainted with six sins. They are desires, anger, miserliness, attraction towards worldly objects, pride and jealousy. Let us face these six sins separately.

We have desires (Kaamam). Having determined to achieve spirituality, we must first reduce our desires. We have a lot of desires. So in spirituality we must make a start by screening our desires. In this context, how can we reduce our desires? We must desire God i.e. Good desires. This means we must reduce our petty worldly desires and thrive for infinite Divine (Good) deeds. As we show interest towards God, worldly and unwanted desires will take a lower priority. We will very soon realize that our unwanted desires are gradually waning. In this process, we will soon realize that we are showing interest towards good things of life and showing disinterest towards petty worldly things. We will also realize that our time is made to optimum usage. As our unwanted acts take a low priority we will feel we have improved a lot.

In the same way, we have to combat our anger. Let us analyze and control our anger. Our anger will destroy our discrimination and wisdom. We will be losing three months energy for one burst of anger, warns Baba. Thus this anger will have an impact on our physical health. We must not succumb to such a weakness. We must prevent ourselves from getting angry. How? We must move away from those men and situations which makes us angry. We must move away from those who irritate and blame us. We must chant the name of God, when we are angry. When you are angry drink a glass of water, suggests Baba. In this way, we must maintain calm and never yield to anger. This calmness serves as our friend, savior and a relative, says our elders. In this way, if we sacrifice one bad quality from us, we will possess many latent benefits from within and outside.

The miserly men give more importance to the worldly objects and become slaves to these objects, in ignorance. Yielding to selfishness, man is unable to realize the purpose of human birth. He is thus wasting his life and getting limited to himself. He is even afraid of remembering God, who has served him with all worldly needs. How to get rid of this miserliness? A miser must on his own develop detachment towards worldly things. A miser must not feel the satisfaction in receiving things, but on the other hand must enjoy the bliss involved in giving things to others. He must not get limited to self enjoyment but rather he must wish for the welfare of others around. When we are born we come empty handed and when we leave this world we leave empty handed. We will not carry with us even a single penny. Then why do we crave for all these worldly desires? What is the way out for a miser to quit this miserliness? He must gain self knowledge. Only with self knowledge he will

develop wisdom and broadened outlook. A miser must gain knowledge about not only himself, but also about the external world. As long as a miser remains attached to worldly things, he will limit his human birth. A miser heeds no good advice. Hence a miser will suffer a lot. Only these hard lessons will bring in him the much needed transformation. Under the circumstances why wait for the sufferings? Our miserliness is not a hidden entity. It is evident to all those who are around us. So precaution is better than cure. Self knowledge is the best treatment for miserliness. Only then he will realize that nothing stands parallel to a human birth. Every individual in the beginning will carry some miserliness. So read books to gain some wisdom to drive out this miserliness.

And coming to attraction towards worldly things, these men will have a tendency to possess all things which are attractive. In this world, we cannot buy all things with money. Can a patient buy health with money? Can a restless person buy sleep with money? A person may have a very beautiful wife, but if she is least cooperative? Once married, she will be bonded for life. In this context, man must realize the pit holes involved in succumbing to attraction. In our daily life, there is no wrong if we are attracted to our daily needs. But we must seriously give a thought to those attractions which lead us to bondage. We must impose controls to these attractions which bind us. How to overcome the worldly attractions? The word 'Swetcha' in Telugu means freedom. The word 'Swetcha' is split into two words. They are 'Swa' and 'Itcha'. 'Swa' means Soul and 'Itcha' means desire. This means if we are attracted towards our Soul, then desires for worldly things will subside. We will enjoy a lot of detachment or freedom towards our possessions. This detachment is liberation. In order to gain knowledge related to our Soul, we must read books on Self Knowledge. A man immersed in the worldly mundane will carry many doubts. Only with self knowledge and good company such doubts will be cleared. So get habituated to reading religious texts and make good friends. As you gain self knowledge, you will gain for yourself the integrated changes and transformation that is taking place in you.

Coming to Pride, these men ill treat and think low of others in the society. All are same in the eyes of God but they fail to realize this truth. How to overcome this folly? Read the biographies of great men. Example: Gowthama Buddha is a prince of a vast empire. Buddha aimed for Universal Peace. In order to achieve this goal, he has left all his belongings. How to drive out our pride? We must attain unity of thought, word and deed. This unity is referred to as penance. This penance is called 'Yogam'. With this Yogam (Union) we will attain Eminence. This eminence will lead to Equanimity, which will have Universal acceptance. So to attain this equanimity we must begin with good words, good thoughts and good actions. In this process we will refrain from bad thoughts, words and actions. These small changes in us will transform us from a finite state to an infinite state. We can realize our transformation within. With Self Knowledge, even this pride will not stay with us for long.

And the last of the six sins is Jealousy. Unable to see the glory of others and others possessions these men will feel jealousy and cry for their downfall and doom. We all must realize our needs. We must lead a life of satisfaction with what we have. Who is the richest man on Earth? A man who is contented with what he possessed is the richest man. How to attain contentment with what we have? This world is filled with dualities. We must progress beyond our dualities. How? "What all happen is for our Good". This must be our attitude. With this attitude we will boldly face all our hardships and overcome them. Not only this, "We must wish for the welfare of everybody around". Following these two principles we can reach very close to God.

As described briefly, everyone must put to practice these spiritual alphabets. Realize the changes in your mind. The Speed, Instability and the Wavering nature of the mind will be controlled. Such a mind will experience its strength. Such a mind will be very pure and help the individual realize

his Soul. So far we have practiced to remove the six sins to achieve purity of the mind. A prayer from a pure mind will reach God instantaneously.

## 6. EXERCISING THE SPIRITUAL HEART

Now let us practice some exercises related to our spiritual heart. Coming to our mind it is the six sins which must be avoided to purify our mind. Similarly coming to our spiritual heart we must get rid of the bad habits to broaden our outlook. We all know that our habits die hard. But it is a must to get rid of these bad habits. What are these bad habits? They are violence, aggression, comparing ourselves with others and lastly to defend one's own actions. Baba advises us all to get rid of these bad habits.

“Our Spiritual Heart is very broad. In this Spiritual Heart, we can accommodate the entire Universe”, says Baba. A Pure Mind is just limited to oneself. But the Broad Heart has the capacity to grasp everything in it. Every man must experience this broadened outlook. If we get rid of one bad habit we will broaden our spiritual heart to a large extent. Realizing this truth, we must make sincere effort to get rid of these bad habits. How to get rid of these bad habits from us? Lord Krishna through His Bhagawad Gita has made two suggestions. We must replace our bad habits with good habits. Secondly, we must get habituated to doing good things without anticipating for the fruits of our actions. In order to get rid of bad habits, Baba has suggested humanity for the practice of the five human values. All those who practice human values under all odds will manifest 18 Divine qualities within and enjoy bliss. They are the blessed souls.

Among the bad habits which condense our heart, Violence is very destructive in nature. Tit for Tat policy is not good for us. If we adapt to such tactics we must analyze the after affects of violence. During moments of fury, we see people committing grave crimes and held up in prisons. The lost lives cannot be brought back nor can we regain the lost time spent in prison. It is very difficult to estimate the loss suffered in terms of lives, time and God's resources. Man must realize the value of all the resources available to him. When man is aware of the utility value of all the resources available to him then he will discard violence. He will shed his hatred towards others and in the process learns to love them. He sincerely wishes for the welfare of our Society. Non Violence is an infinite power.

Aggression is again a very bad habit. Not being contended with ones possessions, he will follow unrighteous paths to amass wealth at the cost of others. During aggression one of the two parties will be strong and the other will be comparatively weak. So during aggression the strong will dominate the weak. The strong will grab the possessions of the weak using aggression. In our Society, it is just not just the strong that are aggressive. In the business arena, many people are cheated. With their cunning and wicked plots, they target the innocent. Coming to the students, they are supposed to learn knowledge. But what they do? They neglect their studies. Why? They remain ignorant and opt for aggressive tendencies against learning. The Government machinery who are supposed to serve the Society, are failing in their responsibilities but in the process misuse their official status. This is the Official Aggression. Politicians who enter the political arena in order to serve the society are becoming professional politicians. They drain away lots of public money. All aggressive tendencies are selfish in nature. How to overcome aggression? We must express humility towards others. Humility does not mean being polite and humble. “Humility means doing sincere service to humanity” says Baba. Only when we tune ourselves with selfless service, our aggressive tendencies will subside and our heart broadens.

The third bad habit within us is to compare ourselves with others. When others enjoy benefits for their actions, these men will question their integrity. But when they themselves enjoy such benefits do they question their integrity? No. But have we put enough effort in that direction? Do we have the

required credentials to possess such benefits? We never think in these lines. We only feel that we have put enough effort but failed to reap benefits. And in the process we blame God. God is just. Example: In a class we have 50 students. All these 50 students are aware of each other's capabilities. Exams are conducted for these students and marks are rewarded. These students will not question the marks scored by them. They have total faith in their teachers. The students answer sheets act as a proof for the students' performance. But coming to real life, God is our Teacher. He is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnifarious. With these Divine attributes our Lord is aware of all our thoughts, words and deeds. Our God is an Eternal Witness. God awards our thoughts, words and deeds. Hence we must accept God just like our Teacher who analyses our education performance. Hence it is our duty to learn about our Divine Master and His Divine Attributes. Only then we will stop comparing with others in terms of benefits accrued by others.

When others enjoy benefits, we get ready for comparison. But when others are suffering what is our status. Do we compare ourselves over others sufferings? No, not at all. We will automatically claim that he is suffering for his lapses. Seeing others sufferings, have we ever expressed gratitude to God. No, never. See these are very small things or habits which we must change.

In what respect we can compare ourselves with others? In order to achieve great things in life, we can compare with others. Here again, we need not compare with what others have possessed, but we must follow others for their great achievements. We must never compare with others in terms of benefits accrued.

The fourth bad habit is "To defend one's own actions". As long as man defends his own actions he will not go beyond (conquer) his limitations. A Frog lives in a well. What will this Frog think? This Frog will think that its well is everything for her. Even if someone speaks about the mighty Universe, this Frog will still defend the well and fails to accept the glory of the Universe. Men must shed their selfishness and ignorance to come out of their shells. But How? The answer lies in the question itself. They must give up their ego and selfishness to develop a broad heart. Man must learn to love others and wish for others wellbeing. Only when we think of others wellbeing and prosperity, man will come out of his shell.

In order to overcome these habits easily, man must get habituated with the five human values. They are the Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non Violence. Those who practice human values under all odds will develop 18 divine qualities. These Divine Attributes bless man with infinite bliss. They are the blessed souls.

What is the status of Spiritual aspirants who exercise with their mind and their spiritual heart? They enjoy bliss. Bliss is permanent. How is this permanent blissful experience? Every moment, we will maintain contact with the Divine. In this state, Ego and Bondage are not seen. Man's mind is freed from six sins and the spiritual heart is free from the bad habits. Thus the mind is pure and the spiritual heart broad. Mind is involved in the six virtues like good habits, intelligence, always follow truth, discipline, devotion and duty. Man's life is inclined to the five human values. The spiritual heart is thus overflowed with the divine qualities.

This state loves his fellow beings. This state goes beyond all limitations of caste, creed, color, race and religion. This state thrives for the wellbeing of others. This state melts at others sorrows and difficulties. This state wants to sacrifice his body for the welfare of the humanity. This state manifests bliss with the divine attributes. This state cannot be compared with any other pleasure in the world.

## 7. MAN CAN PERFORM MULTI TASKING

We have a Computer. In good old days Computers used to perform one task at a time. But the modern day Computers perform Multi-Tasking. How is it possible? In olden days, a single processor is used in a Computer to perform one task at a time. But in the modern age, Dual Core Processors are used to perform Multi Tasking. Of these dual processors, if one processor takes care of the Applications, then the other takes care of the System Software. In the days to come Quadra Processors may replace Dual Core Processors.

We are humans. We work with one mind. Our Psychiatrists state that our mind will concentrate on one task at a given point of time. This means that man can perform only one task at a time. But even Man can perform, just like Computers Multi Tasking. How? With Mind and the Spiritual Heart, Man can perform Multi Tasking. This may sound strange but true. In order to realize this fact, we must possess a pure mind and a broad heart. Until then this fact is beyond the reach of a common man.

Let us try to understand this concept of Multi Tasking by men. We have our mind. We are getting habituated to working with our mind only. Observe the activities of our mind. With our mind we think, contemplate, recollect, analyze problems etc.. In this way, we do only one act at a time with our mind. Our mind works with the help of the five sense organs and the five action organs. This entire Universe is made up of five elements. The five attributes of the five elements are Sound, Touch, Form, Smell and Taste. Mind is unseen. But we experience our mind with these five attributes. Thus we enjoy these five attributes with our mind. Apart from these five senses our mind cannot go beyond them.

Now let us come to our Spiritual heart. Getting habituated to our mind, we are neglecting our spiritual path. To be frank, we are not distinguishing between our mind and our spiritual heart. Mind is limited to the five attributes of the five elements. But our spiritual heart experiences the Divinity which is beyond the five attributes. Can we express the Divine Bliss in words? No, not possible. Everyone will be enjoying this divine bliss, but is it possible to prove bliss to others? Not possible, says Baba.

We can explain the activities of our mind in terms of the five attributes. But it is not possible to express the blissful experiences of our spiritual heart. Every seeker experiences many divine manifestations. Only those spiritual seekers who work with their spiritual heart will realize these divine manifestations. Man must not neglect these divine manifestations as strange coincidences. They must accept the reality.

Right from my younger days, I got habituated to working with my spiritual heart. How this spiritual heart executes the given task is beyond our imagination. But the task assigned to the spiritual heart is completed. I experienced a few hundred such experiences. With these experiences under my belt, I am expressing this aspect of Multi Tasking. I am sincerely expressing my experiences for others easy understanding.

I am expressing that aspect which is beyond words of description. It surpasses the logic of the human mind. Bear me with patience to realize this subject. The entire humanity must realize this Multi Tasking. This is my desire. So gradually make a sincere effort to realize and accept that ENTITY which is beyond the five attributes of the five elements. I shall express this entity (this subject) with a few experiences.

Man has a lot of responsibilities to take care of. Whenever I go out of my house, I sincerely pray God from my heart to take care of myself and my acts. The purpose for which I go out may or may not materialize, but I got habituated to praying God. Having habituated to praying, I have realized that most of my tasks are completed without my involvement. How is this possible? This is difficult to explain. But it is a fact, that the tasks assigned by my spiritual heart to the unseen entity God, in most cases have been fulfilled.

**Example 1:** My wife's paternal grandmother, Mrs Nagaratnamma has lived for 90 years. Once in two years, she used to visit Puttaparthi. When she was around 87 years, she expressed her desire to visit Puttaparthi one more time. Her wish was conveyed to me by my mother-in-law. IMMEDIATELY AFTER OBLIGING HER, I PRAYED (CONVEYED) TO MY INDWELLER THAT IT IS HIS DUTY TO MATERIALIZE THE TRIP. Whenever we go to Puttaparthi, we reserve our to and fro tickets well in one month advance. Before leaving to Puttaparthi, all our health was in good trim. We reached Puttaparthi safely. Two days later Nagaratnamma's health suddenly got deteriorated. She was admitted in Super Speciality Hospital ICU at puttaparthi. Her BP fell to 25. Doctors expressed doubts over her survival. All the close relatives were informed. They too reached Puttaparthi. But I am very confident that she will recover. Two days later she was moved from ICU. She has recovered and discharged from the hospital. We reached back to our homes with our reservation tickets. After reaching home, I acknowledged my Indweller for saving her life and making this trip possible. This is Nagaratnamma's last trip to Puttaparthi. 3 years later she breathed her last.

**Example 2:** Every year in the Sathya Sai Organizations, special Bhajans will be conducted at all places (units). These special Bhajans activity is conducted for the last 25 years. Ever since these special Bhajans started in Ravulapalem, Mr.P.Appa Reddy used to attend all Bhajans without fail. He too reached around 80 years. Two years back he left his body. Three years back when the special Bhajans started, he stated, "I am becoming old. I am not having enough strength to attend Bhajans regularly. This year I pray Baba to give me enough strength to attend 30 Bhajans atleast". I felt very happy over his love for God (Baba) and said "Very Happy". By that time around 15 special Bhajans have been completed and another 70 Bhajans are to be completed. A few days later, Appa Reddy fell critically ill. He was admitted in the hospital for around 10 days. All his family members lost hope over his life. I got the news of his critical health. But I was very confident. "Appa Reddy has expressed his desire to attend 30 special Bhajans. Without completing these Bhajans where he will go?". So I strongly believed that he will recover. As per my belief, Appa Reddy was discharged from the hospital after ten days. A few days after his recovery, Appa Reddy again attended some more special Bhajans. I felt very happy for his love towards Baba. That very year, a few months later, Appa Reddy passed away without any health problems.

**Example 3:** In our Ravulapalem, we have M.Gangaiah. He had a grandson who had a skin problem, ever since his birth. The boy was treated for his skin ailment ever since then. That boy became a 10 years old. He used to go to school. Apart from the skin ailment, he is normal in all his activities. With this skin ailment this boy became critically ill and admitted into a hospital. After learning about his health I went to see the boy in a hospital at Rajahmundry. With his skin ailment, his appearance has become very frightening. The boy was lying on bed due to sedation. After seeing him I felt that it is better if the boy is dead, as he will experience hell with his skin ailment. As soon as I came out after seeing the boy, Gangaiah expressed that he is praying God to save his grandson's life. After hearing him, I told him politely that I have a suggestion to make. Gangaiah responded positively. I stated, "See, you have seen your grandson. His appearance has become abnormal and frightening. You are praying for his life, but have you at any time thought of the pain the boy is suffering?". Yes, the boy is suffering a lot, replied Gangaiah. "Don't pray God to save his life. Pray God to relieve him from

pain". I suggested. Gangaiah accepted my suggestion. Very next day the boy passed away. When I met Gangaiah, a few days later, he stated, "I changed my prayer. I prayed God that I am unable to bear the suffering of my grandson. So please take him into your fold. And God responded immediately".

**Example 4:** My mother-in-law's name is Annapurna. Annapurna is Goddess of Food. She lives true to her name. She is a very loving personality. I used to feel that she must have enough finances at her disposal always. She had 3 daughters; all of them married and well settled. She is left with some land. Her annual income from this land is just sufficient to meet her both ends meet. I suggested her to dispose a part of her land and give the amount for interest, so that her earnings will be increased. As per my suggestion, she disposed of a part of her land and gave the amount to me for interest paid monthly to her. Every month during the first week, I used to personally handover the interest amount to her. But on one occasion my wife (after making adjustments with her mother) got into the Bus with Rs 5500/-cash (interest amount). My wife put this amount and her mobile in a small purse. On that day she waited for the Bus for half an hour. The bus stand was full of passengers. After getting into the bus, she checked her bag for her purse. She found her purse missing. My wife immediately got down from the bus and informed me of losing the purse. I immediately called M.Vardhana Rao and asked him to come to the bus stand. It was 2.00pm in the afternoon. As soon as we reached the bus stand, a Policeman who was in the bus stand, for formality sake, talked with Vardhana Rao. Vardhana Rao informed the matter of theft to the Policeman. My wife expressed her doubt over a woman who carried her young child in her lap and roamed in the bus stand. Immediately the policeman told us that she might be a 'Snake catcher'. We all searched for her in the bus stand. We made a search for her outside the bus stand, within a vicinity of 1 km from the bus stand. But she was not traced. We went to the Police Station and made a oral complaint for the loss of our purse carrying cash and mobile. On the same day, at 4.00pm I received a call from my sister at Hyderabad. She informed me that my wife's purse is in the Police Station and that I must go to the Police Station to collect it. I went to the Police Station, met the SI, who gave me the purse. I thanked the SI for their services. I saw the woman (snake catcher) there, who stole the purse. The purse carried Rs 5000/- cash( Rs500/- less) and a mobile. In order to confirm the missing purse about its owner, the SI called from my wife's mobile to a person in Puttaparthi, who revealed the name of my wife. This gentleman later called my mother at Hyderabad. My sister, who is by her side later called me and informed about the recovered purse. Within two hours of losing the purse, our lost purse was recovered. This was made possible because of the Policeman who was present at the bus stand at the time of theft. After hearing the incident, my mother-in-law's first remarks were "vivek is Righteous. His money will not be lost".

**Example 5:** Let us observe an incident, wherein I am not involved in any way. Mr.Akki Raju is a melodious singer in our East Godavari Sri Sathya Sai Organization. He remained a bachelor. He surrendered his life for the Divine cause. He is very simple. He used to conduct musical concerts for his lively hood. But he never accepted monetary gains for his musical concerts arranged within the organization. Akki Raju stays in Ramachandrapuram. One night at 9.00pm he was waiting at Kotipalli bus stand to catch a bus to Ramachandrapuram. Akki Raju has 3 gold rings in his fingers. A taxi driver came near Akki Raju and asked him to get into the taxi. There was already one person in the taxi. Akki Raju thought this person to be a co passenger. The taxi moved well up to Vemagiri. At Vemagiri the taxi took a wrong route. Akki Raju noticing this wrong route, tried to question the driver, but in no time, the co passenger bended Akki Raju's head on to the seat and placed a sharp knife over his throat, and relieved the 3 gold rings from him. They travelled for another one hour with Akki Raju's body and head lying on the car seat and the sharp edged knife over his throat, and later pushed him out of the car and fled away. It was all dark. Akki Raju does not know where he was. It

was around 10.30 – 11.00pm. He stopped a lorry that was coming that way and asked for the name of the place, where he is standing. The lorry driver was surprised for his mode of questioning. He was pushed out of the taxi in a village called Vedereswaram, 2 km from Ravulapalem. This lorry driver dropped Akki Raju at Ravulapalem. At Ravulapalem, Akki Raju met Vardhana Rao and told him what all had happened. They went to the local police station and took their advice. They were asked to lodge an F.I.R at Kadiyam PS. They went to Kadiyam PS at that night, but they refused to book the F.I.R, but instead suggested them to lodge the complaint at Rajahmundry PS, near Kotipalli Bus Stand. As directed they went to Rajahmundry PS to lodge the F.I.R, but the Rajahmundry police refused to lodge the F.I.R. They suggested Akki Raju to lodge the complaint at Kadiyam PS. The next day morning, as per this suggestion, Akki Raju again went to the Kadiyam PS to lodge the F.I.R, but they refused him again suggesting him to lodge the F.I.R at Rajahmundry PS. Akki Raju again went to Rajahmundry PS to lodge the F.I.R, who refused them again and suggested him to lodge the F.I.R at Kadiyam PS. After so much of effort, Akki Raju gave up and decided to go home without lodging an F.I.R. As Akki Raju along with his friend were going back on a bike, a bike overtook them. Akki Raju heard the voice of those men on the bike. He felt as if he had heard their voice before. He realized that the voice belongs to the taxi driver and the co passenger. He immediately checked their fingers. He saw his 3 Gold rings on their fingers. Akki Raju following their bike, informed the Kadiyam PS about spotting the thieves and claimed for their help. They responded immediately and caught hold of the thieves and recovered the 3 gold rings from them. How the Divine acts surpass all our logic. Within 24 hours after the theft, the 3 gold rings were recovered and the thieves were taken into custody. No doubt Akki Raju has made two rounds around two Police Stations to lodge an F.I.R, but the sweet lord has presented the two thieves right in front of him. Don't deny the Divine involvement as strange coincidence.

He who gets accustomed to working with their heart will acknowledge the Divine help and responses. In the above five incidents we have seen how the divine play materialized, which is beyond the five attributes of the mind. We have seen here how the Divine fulfill the pleas of our hearts. Everyone can experience such Divinity.

Only a pure mind will help us to realize the Divine role in these incidents. Our spiritual heart must be very broad. God dwells in our spiritual heart. We must experience the Universal Consciousness within our heart. With this broadened outlook we move from 'I' to 'We'. Everyone must reach and enjoy this state. Those who enjoy this state can apply their spiritual heart and commune with God to complete their assignments. For these tasks, they just 'Submit' from their hearts. How these tasks are completed is beyond the reach of our intelligence. We must always maintain the purity of our mind and the broadened outlook in our spiritual heart. There is no need to work out the modus operandi of these works. Opting to this mode of submitting tasks, we will soon realize that 'God is our sincere servant'. All those seekers of God whose mind is pure and their heart broad will slowly get accustomed to this mode of Multi Tasking. And God in His own style, which is beyond the five attributes of the mind, surpassing our intelligence, will fulfill our wishes.

In this regard we must remember and recollect an incident of Bhagawan Baba. Once, a devotee told Baba "Oh Baba! You are the Supreme God. Many devotees will convey their hardships to You. For all such problems, how can you offer help to Your Devotees?" Baba responded "As soon as a devotee calls for God's help, spontaneously he will receive a response in his spiritual heart. This response is God's help for that devotee's prayers. But immediately after receiving the divine response, the devotee's mind will start its mental spree, and in the process neglects the divine response. By neglecting and denying the divine response, the devotee is not in a position to benefit from God's response". Baba further added the validity of God's response thus. Baba stated, "God's response will

remain stable for any length of time. But man's mind is unstable and wavering. How can an unstable and a wavering mind solve man's problems? Such a mind will fail to solve man's problems. On the other hand, those who follow God's response will be relieved from their sufferings". What a practical situation! What a technical response! How close is God to man? All this information seems simply wonderful.

These are spiritual exercises which revolve around the mind and the spiritual heart. Man must progress from 'I' to 'We' with the help of the spiritual alphabets. When man raises himself from 'I' to 'We', he can apply himself to Multi Tasking. All those tasks which involve the application of the mind will be personally taken up. But all those tasks assigned by the spiritual heart will be seen completed without our personal or physical involvement. Everyone must achieve this status to materialize things with their spiritual heart. This is my sincere prayer from my heart. So far I have tried my best to express how a pure mind and a broad spiritual heart materializes things which are beyond the comprehension of the human mind. Only by His Grace and Blessings I could present such Divinity and bring it to the close quarters of one and all. Though God is not seen, Divinity is knitted within us. We must realize such Divinity and experience it every moment.

## 8. DIVINE RESPONSES FROM THE SPIRITUAL HEART

I humbly submit that I have a few hundred Divine experiences. Right from my younger days I maintained purity of my mind and gradually developed the broad outlook and always remained tune with the Lord. Because of this “CONTACT”, I used to receive responses from my spiritual heart. Without realizing them as Divine Responses, I still used to stick to these responses from the heart. Very recently, after realizing the above incident, I realized that the responses of the spiritual heart are nothing but Divine Responses. I felt blissful for such knowledge.

God is Omniscient. He knows the inward status of all the human beings. Being aware of the inward status, God responds to us from our spiritual heart within a fraction of a second. This response from our spiritual heart can be related to as God’s permission to march ahead with our plea. But the responses of our spiritual heart may appear to be totally against our wishes. But all those who stick to the Divine responses will reap wonderful results and blissful moments in the end.

Right from my younger days, I got accustomed to responding to my spiritual heart. Right from my childhood days, I followed a spiritual life. Based on Bhagawan Baba’s messages, I can state that every time I received a response from my spiritual heart, I always had the support of my mind. Based on Baba’s revelations it is understood that in most cases that the human mind will not support or co-operate the Divine response of the spiritual heart and hence they fail to get benefit from the divine responses. In this respect, I realized that for all my divine responses since my childhood, the credit must go to my mind. Right from my childhood, my mind is very pure. My mind remained free from the six sins. My mind was strengthened with the six virtues. My minds’ characteristics like Speed, Instability and the Wavering nature have always remained subdued and I used to exercise my mind’s power i.e. to focus on the Infinite and reflect within my spiritual broadened heart.

God is unseen. But He is within us. He responds from within for all our pleas and queries. But most of the time, we are neglecting the responses from the Divine (spiritual heart). We are in a dilemma. In order to give clarity to this aspect of Spiritual Responses, by ‘His Permission’, I shall present here some of my Divine responses that have materialized.

**Divine Response 1:** (Response from my Spiritual Heart): Right from the age of around six, I had a very strong desire to see God. It is this desire which led me to my spiritual progress. It is this desire which tuned my mind into a pure state. It is this desire which enabled a broader outlook in me. During this process of my spiritual progress, I have received many responses from my spiritual heart. I got inclined to these responses. This is my spiritual foundation.

**Divine Response 2:** A man may possess ten good habits, but what if he possesses one bad habit? With one single unwanted bad habit, the sweet home can change into a hell. But that individual is unable to give up that single bad habit from him. The reason being his mind. He is becoming a slave to his mind’s characteristics like Speed, Instability and the Wavering natures. Apart from these characteristics, the six sins will play foul. As a result, man is unable to sacrifice even a single bad habit from him. Everyone must realize that one single bad habit in every family is ruining innumerable families into restlessness. If that bad habit is sacrificed, all these families will turn into sweet homes or heavens.

This one bad habit can be playing cards, may be a Smoking, may be Drinking Alcohol, may be Gambling, may be Debauching, may be Wrong Friendship, etc. That's not all. That one bad habit can be to possess Anger, Desires, Miserliness, Attachments towards worldly things, Pride or Jealousy. That's not all. That one bad habit can be sitting idle, torturing inmates with words, lack of faith on family members, ill health or monetary problems.

In this way, in our society we are becoming prey to many social disorders. But the good thing is all may not possess all these bad habits. But the fact lies that even one such disorder will cause restless in a family. In our society there will be many men and women without any of these social disorders.

And let me speak about my parents within my family. My mother's name is Suguna, meaning woman of virtues. My father's name is Satyanarayana Reddy. He is also virtuous. A few salient features of my mother are service, discipline, adherence to good things in life, to deny the bad, to wish for the well being of one and all. In the process she is very pro active and very courageous. And coming to my father, he is very punctual, he never expects any gains from others, service motive, he shares his knowledge with others, shows interest with good things in life and duty bound towards his official duties (never wastes time in gossiping) and intensely devoted to God. In spite of all these good qualities, my father had one bad habit of not listening to my mother. Mother is love personified. Mother married father expecting a lot of love from him. But my father never obliged my mother's love. I feel that my paternal grandmother's attitude towards my mother has greatly influenced my father. My mother says that my paternal grandmother has never shown any concern towards her ever since her marriage. I was born 12 years after my parents' marriage. For the sake of children my mother performed many spiritual rituals. She read books of many great men. After my birth, my mother poured all her motherly love upon me. Just like Yashoda, my mother used to call me 'Kanna'. I had a 3 year younger sister and a 7 year younger brother. Father apart from not listening to my mother's words used to torture her mentally with words. Mother used to suffer silently without reciprocating. I was very small. In that small age, I used to console my mother. I was born in 1958. Father, after returning from the Office, used to start his torture. This has become a daily routine like a Tape Recorder. Due to my father's torture, my mother in 1968, left home to become an ascetic. We children are lucky enough to get back our mother. My mother had full faith in God (Rama, Krishna and Sai Baba). In 1971, all our family members went to Puttaparthi for the first time. Father had great love for Bhajans (devotional songs). In our home, we started weekly Bhajans since 1967. And after returning from Puttaparthi, father used to attend Bhajans all the seven days of the week. After returning from the Office, he used to take dinner and attend a Bhajan in our Malakapet Zone. In this way, my father's habit of torturing mother has almost come to a naught. This is God's grace on our family. Since 1971, my father and my mother both became active sevadals in the Sri Sathya Sai Organization. As a result, the atmosphere in the house improved a lot. My father's behavior has not made any impact on my younger sister and my brother, but it has created a lot of impact on me. I developed a fear at that young age. How will be my better half? If she co-operates it is good or else My God!

As I grew into an adult I dreamed of a very beautiful and a good wife. I was in no hurry to marry but I conveyed my wish to our Lord. God responded spontaneously. He asked me, "If I want a beautiful wife or a very good wife?". By that time I realized that it is better to possess a good wife rather than a beautiful wife. I prayed to this effect. God tested my integrity just as Rama tested Sita's integrity. In 1977, when I was doing my first year degree, I got a match. I want to marry after getting a job but my father asked me to see the girl. We, six of us went and saw the girl. Except me, nobody liked the girl. But I have given a word to our Lord that beauty is not important for me. I conveyed my

acceptance, irrespective of her beauty. I have won the God's test. Our horoscopes matched each other. Two dates were fixed for our engagement. But on both these days, our close relatives' marriages have taken place and hence our marriage engagement has been postponed for another four months. These four months passed. The girl's side has lost interest in our match. There was no more response from them. One year passed. I got another match. At that time I was writing my degree second year final exams (1978). This match was brought to my parents' notice by our close relative Mrk Reddy. But I told him directly that I shall not marry until I get a job. The mother of this girl (Satyaveni, my wife) saw me when I was a young boy. On Sivarathri, 1978 my Father-in-law passed away. My mother-in-law, who just lost her husband, has expressed her eagerness to finalize this match. As I had conveyed my opinion that I will marry only after settling down after getting a job, they made a second request to my father. After my exams we all left to our native place. My father wrote a letter to me to see the girl (of the second match). We saw the girl on 7-6-1978. Our marriage engagement was held on 9-8-1978 and the wedding bells rang on 26-10-1978.

After the fire test, Sita's chastity was proved to the entire world. In the same way, by passing the God's test over my integrity, I was blessed with a beautiful, very good and a Righteous woman as my better half. Very soon after my marriage, I realized that all the relatives of my wife are very good people.

During most of the times, we may not relish the God's response. It may be felt as if it is against our wishes. And hence we neglect God's response. We never share our God's response even with our close aides. We do not follow great men's advice. We follow as per our dictum. Instead of our own decision, we must fix to God's decision and see for ourselves how God will direct the show to climax (Bliss). No questions needed. Only submission to His Will is needed. Only after materialization, we will realize the part played by the Divine Will.

**Divine Response 3:** In 1976, I joined in my degree. My mother suggested me to join as a volunteer in Sri Sathya Sai Service Organization. "You and Father are already doing service. So I will not join", replied my mother. After my birth, I never denied my mother. For the first time I denied her request. But my mother was very adamant. She forced me to join the organization. In this way in order to satisfy my mother, I joined the organization. But once I joined the Organization, spiritually I progressed leaps and bounds.

Within the Organization, all those who work for four hours per week, are considered as active volunteers. I used to do ten hours of service every week, but still I remained unsatisfied. In 1982, I happened to read 'Sathya Sai Vahini'. In this book, Baba has explained how to spend the 24 hours of the day. Baba told, "six hours for sleep, six hours for daily routine, six hours for earnings and six hours for service to the humanity". Immediately after reading this message I queried Baba, "What is this? You are advising us to do six hours of service daily, but within the Organization we could do only four hours of service per week. If I am a Doctor, I would have done six hours of service daily. But I am not a Doctor. Under the circumstances, how can I offer six hours of service daily"? Spontaneously I received a Divine Response. And the Divine Response is "Adopt an Orphan". I was inclined to the Divine Response. By 1982, I was still issueless. "If a son was born to me as my first child, then I can go forward to accept an orphan girl as my second child. What happens if my first child is not a son? In that case, I may not be in a position to adopt an orphan girl as our second child. I have to again try for a male child. When we fix ourselves to the Divine Response, the rest is taken care of by the Divine. On 24-8-1983, we are blessed with a son, our first child. One year after my submitting to the Divine Response, my son was born. Only after my son's birth, I told my wife about our second child i.e. to adopt an orphan girl as our second child. She straight away accepted my

proposal. When my son was five years, 9 months old, we brought home our loving daughter 'Sai Lakshmi' to our home.

Here again, I responded to my Divine Response. God's tests for our integrity are a routine affair. These God's tests are that I have not yet settled down in life. But once we fixed to the Divine Response, our future lies in His hands. He will direct our future. With minimum interference, we will be moving towards our goals. Even the role of the unseen Lord seems untraceable. On 11-5-1989, our loving daughter 'Sai Lakshmi' was born. I want to bring my loving daughter home, as a symbol of love, on a Christmas day. But I brought her home on 20-5-1989, on a Buddha Poornima day. Buddha stands as a symbol of PEACE. After bringing home our loving daughter Sai Lakshmi, the PEACE I am enjoying is perhaps not enjoyed by any father in this world. Since then I am enjoying such peace within.

**Divine Response 4:** It was January 1987. I was staying at Penugonda. For Sankranthi, we went to Hyderabad to see our parents. On the Sankranthi day, at Sivam, a refreshing course was arranged. My father asked me to attend this refreshing course. The refreshing course started at 9.00am and continued till 6.00pm. Many speakers spoke of Baba's messages during the day. At the end, at 6.00pm, Dr.Narsing Rao has requested the volunteers present to make some suggestions to improve the service activities of the Organization, and gave us two minutes to think. I closed my eyes. I prayed God to convey some suggestions to improve the service activities. As a Divine Response, I saw Mother Theresa. In this context I started a dialogue with my Indweller.

Myself: Why I have seen Mother Theresa as a Divine Response?

My Indweller: Where are Mother Theresa's Organizations located?

Myself: Mother Theresa's Organizations are limited to towns and cities.

My Indweller: How many people are benefitted by these Organization's services?

Myself: May be 1% of the needy.

My Indweller: What must be done to serve the 100% needy people?

Myself: For every village, there must be a Sai Service Centre (Sai Mandir).

Two minutes passed and Dr.Narsing Rao asked the volunteers for suggestions. Around 5-6 hands were raised. I too raised my hand. Of all those who raised their hands, I was the youngest. Three senior volunteers expressed their opinion. The time was 6.15pm, and the meeting was declared closed. Along with me, a couple of others too could not get a chance to speak out.

At that moment, I have taken a decision. What is that? "Whenever I construct a house, I will arrange for a Sai Mandir in my house". The decision is final.

In 1982, I have completed my education. I could not settle down in life either in business or in jobs. I did not have enough finances to construct a house. Under the circumstances, I courageously fixed to my Divine Response. Thereafter, it will be His show. On 10-3-1992, we started a house at Ravulapalem with a plinth area of 1980 sq ft, and completed the building and completed the building by 2-6-1992 (less than three months). I have chanted lord's name throughout the construction. Our house was completed. With the limited financial resources, how can such a big house be completed?

Is it a dream or a Reality? This was made possible just because of God's grace and blessings. With this house all our family members felt very happy.

In this house, we have arranged for a Sai Mandir. We had a 33' \* 22' hall in this Mandir. In this Mandir Hall innumerable spiritual and service activities took place over the years. With these service activities, the strength of the Sai devotees has considerably improved. With the increase in strength of the devotees, we could easily conduct more activities. In this way, by constructing the Sai Mandir within our house, our family members could enjoy a lot of bliss along with the devotees.

**Divine Response 5:** It was 1988-89. I have not yet settled down in my life. One day standing before our Lord's picture, I prayed thus. "Oh Lord, You have given me a healthy body and mind. You have blessed me with a lot of talents. But inspite of all these, I could not settle down in my life. Is my life wasted without any purpose"? As I prayed thus I felt no pain, but tears rolled down from my eyes. Within seconds, I received the Divine response. "If everybody is engaged in earnings who will care for the well being of the Society?" With this Divine Response my heart melted in bliss. My tears turned into tears of joy. I realized that my body will be utilized for a good cause. I felt ecstasy for this Divine Response.

**Divine Response 6:** My entire life has progressed with these Divine Responses. I used to get bind to my Divine Responses. This has become a habit for me. My mind as usual always favored and supported the Divine Responses. It never suffered lack of resources. In the beginning all these tasks seem impossible for me. But I had full trust in God. Knowing my limitations, I still made my efforts without any ego tinge. Without my limited involvement, all the tasks were programmed to perfection. I was just a witness to the flow of events. At the end, I used to convey my gratitude to our Great Lord.

Only when we convey our pleas, our sufferings to our Lord, we will receive the Divine Responses. Does this mean that we never receive Divine Responses without conveying our pleas or sufferings to God? No. We receive many Divine Responses voluntarily from God. God conveys many Divine Messages from our spiritual heart. Such Divine Messages will be very blissful and everlasting. They are very special to us. In this way I have received many Divine messages or responses from our Sweet Lord. I have received some 'Praises' as Divine Responses from our Sweet Lord. I have expressed these praises in my books (writings).

In 1987-88 I have written in English, "The timebound sparks, coincidences and responses from the Divine" at the behest of our Lord. That was a Mango Bud. It was read by 5-6 readers, meaning it was viewed by only a few.

In 1997, I wrote in Telugu, a book titled "Endaroo Mahanu bhavulu andhariki vandhanamulu", based on the above book. This means that the Mango Bud has grown big in size, but still not ripe. Even this book has very few readers.

Now, at His behest I have written, "An Eventful, Meaningful and a Blissful Inward Journey", based on the above books and some additional spiritual knowledge. This book is a Ripened Mango Fruit. I pray, hope and wish that this book will have more readership.

At the present moment, I am getting ready with four books. All these books are nothing but Divine Responses. "A Meaningful, Eventful and Blissful Inward Journey" narrates the various Divine Responses that became a part of my life.

My second book of the lot is “60 Alphabets of Spirituality”. This book again is totally directed based on my Divine Responses. This book will serve as Divine Alphabets. After the book is completed, I realized that the contents of the book will be applicable to one and all, going beyond all limitations. I know no words to express my gratitude for the Divine Grace showered in completing this book.

And the third book relates to Righteousness. Bhagawan Baba has stated that “It is easy to practice Righteousness in any era”. How come? I questioned Baba. And the Divine Response for my query is the outcome of this book. This book is titled “The Significance, Latent Truths and the Practical Truths of Ramayana”. The Significance of Ramayana will guide us towards our goals and love for God. The Latent Truths of Ramayana will give us confidence that it is really easy to practice Righteousness. And the Practical Truths of Ramayana will create in us interest towards the practice of Righteousness.

And the fourth book among the lot is ‘Sathya Nirathi’ (Always Follow Truth). Even though I have briefly mentioned about the formless attributes of our lord and about the Divine Attributes of a man in the above books, I am still not satisfied. I want to focus on these two aspects separately. But how? As a Divine Response, I got an opening. Man must shift gears from ‘Liking God’ to ‘Love God’. This simple shift in man is possible if only man is aware of the Formless Attributes of our Lord and the Divine Attributes that are under his possession.

God is responding to one and all. But how many are getting benefitted from His Divine Responses? Our life is supposed to be a blend of material and spiritual paths. We are supposed to entertain these two paths for our progress. But what man is doing? Man is just limiting himself to materialistic way of life. He is totally neglecting the spiritual life. In this context, how can they realize and adhere to the Divine Responses? It is not possible. Their mind works against the Divine Responses. Under the circumstances, they are carried away by the whims and fancies of their mind and totally neglect the Divine Responses from their heart.

Do we need a materialistic and spiritual blend of life? It is mandatory. Only when we realize the limitations of the materialistic world, we will entertain the infinite arena of spirituality. Without learning the alphabets how can we explore the language? Nowadays, most of us are getting limited to materialistic outlook. They are totally denying and neglecting the spiritual outlook. As long as they neglect the spiritual life, how can they realize the limitations of the materialistic life and overcome them?

And coming to the spiritual life, we have another drawback. Humanity is not realizing the difference between Spirituality and Devotion. Spirituality comprises of six qualities, and Devotion is one among the six qualities. Not realizing this fact, the spiritual seekers in ignorance are attracted to Devotion, neglecting the other five aspects of spirituality.

Materialistic life is finite, having limitations. Spiritual life is infinite. All those who blend their lives with these two paths will realize this truth. All those who are just limited to the materialistic world will not gain the importance of spirituality.

Example: Draw a line. If there is one line, we cannot distinguish this line as big or small. When there are two parallel lines of different size we can distinguish one line as big and the second line as small.

Material life is related to mind. Spiritual life is related to our Heart. As mind is limited, it can result in temporary happiness, whereas the spiritual heart will bless man with infinite bliss. Realizing this fact everyone must get habituated to both materialistic and spiritual paths.

All those who are habituated to both materialistic and spiritual paths, will gradually shift towards spirituality i.e. infinity. They will broaden their outlook. With this broadened outlook, they manifest Divinity within. Such men will respond to the divine responses. God dwells in our heart. All those who respond to their heart, will realize the role of the Divine Play. God is beyond the five elements and its five attributes. Man need not analyze the Divine Mechanism. Man's mind will fail to analyze the Divine acts. God blessed man with a spiritual heart, by which the infinite divinity can be experienced. Such experiences bless man with everlasting bliss.

**OUR INDWELLER:** God has infinite love towards Humanity. In order to put man on a right track, He is serving man as an Indweller. We may or may not have faith in God, but all are recipients of Indweller's services. Before we speak lies, before we commit a theft or a bad act, when we are negligent towards our duties, when we are not punctual, etc, we receive caution from our Indweller. Hence our elders warn thus, "All those who heed to their Indweller will prosper in life, and the rest will perish".

Thus our Indweller who is within us is cautioning us at the bud stage i.e. at the thought process itself. So we must rectify our thought processes. Those who neglect their Indweller's caution will invite problems for their misdeeds. So God is doing His duty properly. He is cautioning us well in advance. God gave us intelligence to discriminate what is good and what is bad. Man must utilize his discrimination to limit to good acts, leaving behind bad acts, thoughts and words.

See our status. Our Indweller is cautioning us. We are neglecting our Indweller and buy sufferings and problems in the process. Once in the midst of sufferings, man is not in a position to bear these sufferings. Now he wants relief from his sufferings. Among such men, some of them will repent for their mistakes. Those who repent will learn lessons from their mistakes. But there will be others, who without repentance call God for help. Our God is great. He is our loving God. He conveys a solution for our sufferings from our heart. But what is the use? Those who do not repent, their mind will dominate and in the process neglect the Divine Response. Hence all such men without repentance will fail to benefit from Divine Responses.

All those who commit sin or bad acts must repent. With repentance, men realize their own mistakes. God gives another opportunity to all those who repent. Those who repent will properly utilize the God given opportunity. Not only that, he will learn to respond to the Divine Response.

We are humans. Humans behave in four ways. They are animal, demonic, human and Divine tendencies. When we are near to demonic men, we suffer for their demonic acts. For such sufferings we again pray God to relieve us from such sufferings. God will definitely respond to our prayers. But how many will get benefitted from the Divine Responses?

Even before we commit a mistake, we are cautioned by our Indweller. Again in the midst of our sufferings He is again coming to our rescue with Divine Responses. We have God given Intelligence under our forte. We must utilize our intelligences to avoid sufferings. We must discriminate between good and bad to adhere to good things in life. God has given us a wonderful spiritual heart to promote man with infinite everlasting bliss.

When we incline toward spirituality, a stage will come when you see Divine in both materialistic and spiritual paths. We must reach to such spiritual heights. This spirituality gradually pulls man from materialism and tunes him in Universal Consciousness. I sincerely pray one and all for such a progress.

# SIGNIFICANCE, LATENT TRUTHS AND PRACTICAL TRUTHS OF RAMAYANA

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## MY PLEA

Lord Rama is Righteous personified. I adore Rama a lot. When I was around 6-7 years old, my mother habituated me to chant Rama naamam (name). Just like Mahatma Gandhi I too got habituated to chant Lord Rama's name right from a very young age. For being habituated to Lord Rama's name regularly, I naturally benefited by increasing my latent good qualities and reducing in the process my bad qualities.

Apart from chanting Lord Rama's name, I wrote many Ramakoti books during my childhood. I encouraged my classmates to write the Lord Rama's name on these Ramakoti books. When I was in fourth class, my class teacher (a Hindu) noticed our batch writing Ramakoti books in the class room. With a lot of love she asked us to write Ramakoti books at home. During my childhood my mother and my aunt (my mother's sister) used to write Ramakoti books.

When I was in my fourth class, my aunt (my mother's younger sister) has made all our children sit and taught the entire story of Lord Rama (Ramayana) at home. I have never forgotten the story of Rama thereafter. The story of Ramayana has taught many righteous things which can be implemented very easily. Having got benefitted by Ramayana since that young age, as a Balvikas teacher at 48 years, I have decided to explain the entire Ramayana to the Balvikas Children. As a preparation I have read Bhagawan Baba's 'Raamakatha Rasavahini' and 'Aatma Raamam' again for this purpose. As I was reading these books, at one point, I have read "RIGHTEOUSNESS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED VERY EASILY, IN ANY ERA". Never in my life I have ever heard or read such a truth before in my 48 years. I used to hear. "These are not the days of Righteousness. Righteousness is very difficult to implement". But what is this Bhagawan Baba as Lord Rama's message has taught that it is very easy for everyone to implement Righteousness in any era? How is this possible? "Oh Lord! Please clarify this point" – I prayed my Lord and continued reading further. As I read these books I have noted down the salient features. No sooner have I completed reading these two books, Our Lord without a moment delay, has spontaneously gave me the required clarification over this issue in the form of 'Ramayana's Significance and Ramayana's latent Truths'. For the last eight years I have taught the Significance and Latent Truths of Ramayana at many places. All those who heard this information were extremely pleased. After eight years, I tried to bring this information in a book form. As I was compiling this book, I separated the contents of Ramayana's Latent Truths into 'Ramayana's Latent Truths and Ramayana's Practical Truths'. The contents of this book can be grasped easily. I hope that this book will drive home the reader to accept the truth that 'Righteousness can be implemented in any era quite easily'. I wish and pray that this book will give a big boost to the reader to gain interest in Righteous acts and for its easy implementation in real life.

Most of us having been born as humans, want salvation. But we opine that Salvation is a fruit achieved after many human births. But Bhagawan Baba states that if we gain Self Knowledge in the present life, then we will be liberated.

Only with interest we can gain Self Knowledge. Most of us are interested in Liberation, but there are many reasons for not making any efforts. The reasons can be that some are illiterate, some claim that they have no time to spare for Liberation, some claim that the path is very difficult and they

will not make any attempts, some lack clarity and so do not make any attempts, and some others who after making a beginning, will not make efforts till the end as they lack answers for their inefficient efforts. In this way man is losing interest towards salvation. In the Spiritual arena, 100% application is mandatory. This 100% application garners an integrated effort from within.

He who attains Lord's proximity enjoys this liberated state forever. In our Society, there will be many such liberated souls. All those who want to grab the riches of the Sea, must dive deep into the Ocean to find and grab them. But sitting at the seashore, it is not proper to claim that there are no riches in the sea.

We are deliberately distancing from our Lord with unwanted fears. If we enter spirituality, the rich may fear that they have to sacrifice all their wealth. All the politicians fear that by adopting to Spirituality, they may have to adhere to the principles of Political Science and thereby lose their political power. Only when the foundation is strong one can build a big building. Without a strong foundation, no one can build a building over it. For the Humanity, this spirituality is the unseen Foundation. How strong is our foundation?

The Omniscient Lord has taught many spiritual truths to the humanity to drive out our ignorance. Truth is God. We must always follow truth. Following Truth/God we must adhere to Righteousness. But the question is "Is it possible to implement Righteousness easily in our present era?" Such doubts, fears and lack of clarity preoccupy our mind. For all such doubts and fears if the reader goes through these contents carefully, he will be definitely answered and guided.

## 1. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RAMAYANA

We have come on to this earth to live as human beings. But the present day men are not being guided properly to lead a righteous path. Bhagawan Baba has guided man in many respects. They are 1. He has showed man an external and internal path to progress in life, 2. He has enlightened man of his true state, 3. He has shown and guided man with the purpose of life, 4. He guided each and every individual as an Indweller, 5. He showed all the paths of progress and salvation. In this way Bhagawan Baba has guided the entire humanity to achieve the purpose of human birth. Of all the species, human birth is very rare and precious. So does the Time. In order to lead a meaningful and blissful life man must follow the prescriptions as laid down in the scriptures (by God).

The significance of Ramayana will develop Love towards God. This will help us to realize our true self. Our goals will be set. This will show us the paths of salvation. Our efforts will be encouraged. We will gain confidence in our efforts. In order to achieve our goals, we will make an integrated effort with a most suitable path.

The nature of God is Love. God shows no difference between Theists and Atheists. He who has no Love within, is considered an Atheist, says Baba. Hence it is always better for even rationalists to follow the teachings of Sathya Sai to realize the eternal truths.

Is it necessary for us to follow righteousness? Yes. We must follow Righteousness as a mandatory effort. It is our duty to follow the five human values the Truth, the Righteousness, the peace, the Love and the Non-Violence. These human values will serve as the base for all the religions. Based on religion every individual has to follow three duties. They are 1. Love for God, 2. Fear of Sin and 3. Follow the rules of the Society. But man is failing in these three duties. In order to achieve the purpose of life, man cannot avoid these three prime duties. So man must slowly develop love towards these three duties and implement them.

Ramayana brings home a few salient features for every man to follow. Their progress depends on how well these scriptures are followed and put to practice. Let us observe these important common features.

**1). GOD DESCENDS ON EARTH TO ENLIGHTEN MAN:** God descends on Earth and implements His Mission with four activities. They are 1. He will create confidence with the ancient scriptures, whose truths stand the test of times. 2. The importance of Divine knowledge will be highlighted and spread to vast areas. 3. All virtuous people will be saved. 4. Implementation of Righteousness by all men will be given the top priority. When God descends on earth, the lucky ones will realize him soon and follow Him. These men will take part in God's Mission.

Man has three bodies. They are 1. The Physical Body, 2. The Mind and 3. The Soul. Of the three, this body and the mind will be subjected to change. Our soul will remain without any changes. All that we see in this world will be subjected to change. All those things which change with time will one day perish. Man is immersed in this fleeting and unstable world and in the process is unable to realize his true self. Man must realize his true self to achieve progress in life. Only then, he will have a lot of clarity over the existing worldly things and objects. He will then realize that his body and mind are just instruments to achieve this goal. When man realizes his true self, he will then realize

that he is a part of God (Universal Consciousness). The nature of soul is bliss. God descends on earth to guide man to achieve this everlasting bliss.

**2). MAN'S DUTIES:** Man must learn all his duties to make his life more meaningful. In Ramayana, the main character is Rama, the God Incarnate. Rama is Righteousness personified. The great epic Ramayana through many characters enlightens the humanity with all aspects of Righteousness. Rama himself practiced and became an idol to the humanity.

How should we visualize Rama? Should we visualize Rama as man or God? The great sage, Valmiki, who wrote Ramayana, depicted Rama as human throughout his book. Rama faced all the hurdles bravely. Rama in spite of so many hurdles has always followed righteousness. Rama suffered all hurdles like all other humans and overcome them with Righteousness. In this respect Baba suggests the humanity to view Rama as man and not as God. Baba states that if you view Rama as man, then it will become easy for man to follow Rama with righteousness. But if man follows Rama as God, then man will not make efforts to follow Rama's righteous deeds, says Baba.

In India, there is a Rama temple in every village. We all go to a Rama temple to worship him. But our folly is that we adore Rama as God. This is not proper. We must go to Rama's temple and recollect all the righteous acts of Rama, and make a determined effort to implement them in practice suggest Baba. In this context, parents must teach Ramayana to their wards without fail during their childhood.

Men perform various spiritual acts like japam (chanting), tapas (penance), yogams, Yagams and Yagnams (fire rituals). Men need not do all these various acts, but must take pious food to attain salvation. The food we intake must be taken care of purity with respect of utensils, food groceries and the cooking processes. Even if we fail here in practicing this purity, there is no problem. We must at least submit the food we consume to God with an ardent prayer.

In order to maintain the spirituality, the five pre-requisites are pious food (Sathwik food), Sathwik thoughts, Silence, pure thoughts and pious place. Thus Ramayana highlights the serene atmosphere needed for our spirituality.

**3). RAMA – A SYMBOL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:** The life of Rama serves as an ideal for the entire humanity. Rama always spoke and followed Truth. He never spoke untruth. He never failed to implement his words. Rama is a man of actions. Rama used very few words. Rama never failed to attend his duties. He never avoided his duties.

By talking less, man will gain energy and by talking more, he will lose his energies. The present day youth has no control even in the usage of their language. They use very bad language. For the present day youth, they must take a leaf out of Rama's life to make proper use of their words, says Baba.

Rama practiced and prophesied. He showed a righteous path for humanity to attain prosperity and happiness.

Rama's Vow: To kill demons and to safeguard the interests of the virtuous men.

Relatives: Parents and relatives.

Well Wishers: Wife and friends (dear ones).

Rama and Lakshmana accompanied Viswamitra to protect the Viswamitra's Yagnam. But before accompanying Viswamitra, Rama offered salutations first to his mother, followed by his father, teacher and Viswamitra. This shows the top priority of our parents.

After safeguarding Viswamitra's fire ritual, Lakshmana has decided to go back to Ayodhya. Rama clarified Lakshmana by saying, that his father has asked them to follow the orders of sage Viswamitra as they accompanied him.

Rama has spent 14 years in the forest. During these 14 years he has not entered into a town. He has never accepted a dinner.

Rama is love personified. He has not hated Kaika or Bharatha. In spite of his exile, he prayed his father Dasaratha to forgive them.

Rama during the war with Ravana has lovingly touched all the injured vaanaras (soldiers), who with Rama's touch have regained their normal strength.

The unseen foundation stands as a base for the visible building. We are habituated to see the visible things of the world, rather than the unseen Creator of this Universe. The purpose of spirituality is to realize that unseen Divinity.

Today we need men who can fearlessly express Divinity to the society. Today we need men who can oppose and prevent the unlawful, illegal, untruthful, unrighteous and inhuman activities in the society and safeguard the humanity. Today we need men who rely on sincerity, morality, legality, loyalty, righteousness and spirituality.

Patali tree will have abundant flowers, but the flowers are not converted into fruits. This means that such men will talk without implementing their words into actions.

Rasala tree will flower and later convert into fruits. This means these men speak before implementing into actions.

The Jackfruit directly grows fruits without bearing flowers. This shows that they implement into actions without speaking. Example is Rama.

**4). THE SACREDNESS OF NAME 'RAMA':** We all chant Rama's name. It sounds very sweet. All those who chant Rama's name will enjoy physical and mental healing.

Even though sage Valmiki in his Ramayana addressed Rama as a human being, he attributed Divinity to the name Rama.

The name Rama is comprised of 'Ra' + 'ah' + 'ma'. Sin, desires and lust are responsible for human births. Valmiki proved that by chanting Rama's name, these three weaknesses will be taken care of.

'Ra' is related to Sun syllable. It destroys the ignorance in man.

'ah' is related to Moon syllable. It controls the desires in man.

'ma' is related to Fire syllable. It destroys the sin in man.

Example: We all know that Valmiki, the author of Ramayana is an illiterate hunter (previous name Ratnakar), who by chanting Rama's name has transformed into a great sage Valmiki.

The term Rama expresses Omnipresence. Hence man apart from chanting Rama's name, can also attain salvation if he writes the name of Rama, says Valmiki. He therefore, presented the story of Rama to the humanity.

For all seasons and for all men the name Rama stands as a top mantram. Mantram is a name meant for chanting, in order to direct our mind from this mundane world towards God.

The name Rama stands taller than Rama. Realize the differences between the 'name' and the 'form'. When we hear the name of the Mango fruit, we immediately grasp its sweetness. But if we actually hold a Mango (form) in our hands, we will entertain many thoughts and doubts. Is the Mango ripe or unripe? Is the Mango sweet or otherwise? What is the quality of Mango? Hence we smell the odor of the fruit. These doubts and thoughts arise quite naturally. Hence the 'name' is more powerful than the 'form'.

**5). TIME JUDGES THE GOOD AND THE BAD OF EVENTS:** Our entire creation is filled with dualities. Hence we are advised to lead a stable life going beyond these dualities. We must analyze every event to realize the truth from these dualities.

From the ocean we get both poison and nectar. Leech and Lotus are available from the same lake. In this Universe, we find that this Universe will serve as a base for every pair of opposites (dualities).

If there is no Time, one cannot distinguish between good and the bad. Good and bad are relative aspects. They never exist as such. Each one is mutually depended upon one another. Today we have seen the fruit and consumed it. By tomorrow it has changed into excreta. But what do you say? You say that the fruit is good and the excreta as bad. Has the fruit committed any sin to be converted into excreta? No. Can you judge that the consumption of the fruit by man is sin? If so, take another example. Prepare a delicious sweet pudding and leave it aside for 3 days. We call the freshly prepared sweet pudding as good and the spoiled pudding after 3 days as poisonous or bad. Has the sweet pudding committed any sin? No. With this explanation man must learn a lesson that he must never decide the good and bad of things and events. This is the duty of the 'Time'.

**6). MAN CAN ESCAPE FROM ILLUSION:** Rama's spouse Sita is called Bhujjaatha, meaning she arise out from mother earth. The term 'Partha' means the son of mother earth. Thus we all are sons and daughters of mother earth. As a result, we are always attracted down towards this mother earth (low thinking). But all those who wants salvation must develop upward vision i.e. God (high thinking).

In this example, Rama = GOD, Sita = ILLUSION and Lakshmana = individual SELF. We all know Rama spent 14 years in forests. In forests Rama is followed by Sita, who in turn is followed by Lakshmana. Lakshmana (Self) wants to see Rama (GOD). But Sita (ILLUSION) is in between Rama and Lakshmana. So Lakshmana could not see Rama. So what is the way out for Lakshmana? Lakshmana must politely request Sita to move aside, so that he can have a proper view of Rama. Instead of this, if Lakshmana pushes Sita deliberately, then Rama will not tolerate Sita being pushed by Lakshmana. This narration enables us to realize that we cannot win over our illusion by force. We can overcome our illusion only with the Divine Grace. So we must pray God to overcome our illusion.

Let us observe the Evolution of Life as explained in Ramayana and learn for ourselves our role in this evolution process.

This Creation was born as Metal and died as Metal.

This Metal took birth as Tree and died as Animal.

This Animal took birth as Animal and must die as Man.

Man must be born as God and merge in God.

Sat means 'Existing'. Asath means 'Non existing'. Sathasath means 'Existing and non existing'. All worldly objects will change with time. All physical objects are temporary i.e. they exist only for a certain period of time. All worldly things will come and go. They are fleeting in nature, i.e. subjected to change. What is that entity that is not subjected to any change? It is Divinity.

**7). YOGA VASISTAM OR VASISTA GITA:** Rama is a prodigy. At the age of five, Rama was admitted with Vasista for learning education. In just three years Rama mastered all arts of education. For the next three years Rama mastered all arts of warfare. Rama after mastering all arts of education and warfare, at the age of eleven started a life of Solitude. He was not as exciting as before. He would not respond to any call even from a close proximity. He would stay all alone. Seeing this sea change in Rama's behavior his parents were anxious and called Vasista and told him about Rama's status. Vasista created confidence in Rama's parents regarding Rama's behavior. The dialogue between Rama and Vasista, under this context, has been compiled as 'Vasista Gita'. In this way, Incarnation Rama has created an opportunity to illumine humanity with self knowledge. Being born a man, man must therefore make efforts to realize the self knowledge.

In order to discriminate things, man is blessed with intelligence. But it is very sorry to state that man is restricting his intelligences to worldly matters and in earning food, warns Baba.

Truth is eternal and independent. Vedanta literature is comprised of self knowledge. Self benefits from self knowledge.

What is this Soul? Is it the body? The senses? The mind? The intelligence? Or the life forces? To start with, the senses are the tools. This body bears the senses in fixed positions. Hence this body and the senses cannot be Soul. Our mind is a bundle of desires. When there are no desires, mind will not exist. Hence we cannot call our mind as Soul. Even our mind is a tool, which control our senses. Example: A knife. If our mind is compared to a knife, then the sharp side of the knife can be compared to intelligences. That which is a part of the tool, cannot be treated as a Soul. Hence even our intelligences cannot be accepted as Soul.

When we are fast asleep, all our senses will come to a halt. Our life forces will stay in tune with our senses. Hence our life forces will also come to a halt. Hence our life force cannot be termed as our Soul.

If so, how the Soul phenomenon can be explained? In the wakeful state the Soul is enjoying this world with the consciousness of the senses. In the dream state, the Soul enjoys this world in a subtle form with the help of our mind and the intelligences. With few changes from the wakeful and the dreamful states, the Soul enjoys the deep sleep state too. Example: We have a 'Silver Spoon'. It was changed into a 'Silver Glass'. This silver glass is later changed into a 'Silver Plate'. Here we have seen 'Silver' in three states. They are a spoon, a glass and a plate. The item is changing, but the silver remains unchanged. In the same way, our Soul remains the same but exists and enjoys the three different states. How does our Soul exist? Our Soul is existing as a pure, stable and eternal entity.

Man has five kosams (bags). They are

Food Bag (Annamaya Kosa): This body relies on food we intake.

Life Force Bag (Praanamaya Kosa): The food we intake is converted into energy.

Mind Bag (Manomaya Kosa): Our mind is responsible for our thoughts. This mind bag supports both the food bag and life force bag.

Intelligent Bag (Vignaanamaya Kosa): It discriminates the good and the bad, the truth and the untruth and the temporary and permanent aspects of the worldly objects.

Blissful Bag (Aanandamaya Kosa): This bag acts as a support to the above four bags.

Examples: 1).The Intelligent Bag will tell us that if we hit a hard solid table with our hand, our hand will get hurt. 2).When a thorn pierces into our leg, tears drop out from our eyes. Why so? Is there any connection exists between the leg and our eyes? How is this connection? We cannot explain. This connection is made possible by the Blissful Bag..

Sabda brahma mayi (Divinity in sound form), Chara Chara mayi (Divinity in movement form), Jyothirmayi (Divinity in Light form), Vaangmayi (Divinity as Word Power), Nityananda mayi (Divinity in Blissful state), Paratpara mayi (Divinity in Lord form), Maaya mayi (Divinity as Illusion), Sri mayi ( Divinity as Prosperity) are the eight forms of wealth in man. When God blessed man with these eight forms of wealth, man must make proper utilization of them. The first type of wealth is related to sound. If you use the Sound power (Words) positively, we can utilize all the other seven types of wealth on a positive note, suggests Baba.

The all pervading Soul is expressed in four forms. They are

Jaagrath Avastha: This state is called Viswudu (Wakeful State). This state is comprised of five inner senses, five external senses, five life forces + mind + intelligences + chittham (pure form or thoughtless state of mind) + ego.

Swapna Avastha: This is termed as Tejaswudu (Dream State). This state will have all the 19 faces as above but in a subtle form. Here the Mind rests in Mind Bag, and the intelligence rests in Intelligent Bag.

Sushumna Avastha: This state is termed as Praagnudu (Deep Sleep State). Here all the 19 faces are absent. Here the self leaves the mind and the intelligences and stays with the Soul.

Turiya Avastha: This is the Soul State. The Soul cannot see another soul. Example: We have a salt doll. Can this salt doll measure the depth of the sea? No.

Viswamitra's message to the mankind: Viswamitra is a great soul. The name Viswamitra means that he is a friend of this Universe. Viswamitra has a great message to the humanity through his role in Ramayana.

As Viswudu, Viswamitra approached Rama (God) to claim help for his conduct of his fire ritual.

As Tejaswudu, Viswamitra offered his services to Rama (God) in the form of his contribution of Bala and Atibala mantrams (Powerful and most powerful mantrams). This means men must do their bit of service to the humanity as a mandatory affair.

As Praagnudu, Viswamitra received the help from Rama (God) in the form of completing the fire ritual without any hurdles.

Viswamitra helps in the union of Rama (God) with Sita (Self). When we are involved in such acts, our self will merge in the universal self.

Apart from the above message, Viswamitra has contributed the greatest 'Gayatri mantram' to the humanity. Gayatri mantram is as follows.

Aum Bhurbhuvah Suwaha Thath Savithurvarenyam Bhargo Devasya Dheemahi

Dhiyo yonah Prachodha yaath

This Gayatri mantram is related to our intelligences. God blessed man with intelligences. We must utilize these God given intelligences. Viswamitra has taught the role of our intelligences.

By strengthening our Intelligences, let me drive out the ignorance (darkness) in me and land me safely in the path of illumination (Self Knowledge). Not only this, Oh Lord! You are present in the three time periods (the past, the present and the future); You are present in the three worlds (the wakeful, dream and the deep sleep state); You are present in the three attributes of all living objects (The Tamasik, Rajasik and the Sathwik States). We pray you to drive out our ignorance to bask in the light of self enlightenment.

**8). RAMAYANA INITIATES SALVATION:** Valmiki divided the entire Ramayana into Kaandams. Kaandam means water. Every drop of water present in the water contains life force. Every incident in Ramayana contains life force and can be linked to the four types of human achievements. Our achievements (earnings) can be classified into four types. They are Dharma (Righteousness), Artha (Wealth), Kaama (Desires) and Moksha (Salvation). Our spiritual heart is an ocean present in us (Kaandam = water). Goddess Saraswati is a drop of Water (life force). Our intelligence acts as a pearl shell. When a drop of water enters into a pearl shell this drop of water is converted into a pearl. Similarly all those who hear the great epic Ramayana, will have abundant grace of Saraswathi (The Goddess of Knowledge) and attains salvation. Sage Valmiki stated that all those who hear Ramayana will have abundant Divine Grace to attain salvation.

Valmiki wrote Ramayana with real life incidents. There were no extra descriptions. Valmiki described Rama as a common man. He described how Rama suffered (weaknesses) and later recovered to overcome the hurdles. Everyone in this world will face the difficulties. How Rama suffered and overcome these difficulties is the lesson we all must grasp from Rama.

Rama under no circumstances revealed his Divine nature. The Divinity of Rama is realized by only a few illumined souls like Valmiki, Viswamitra, Vasista, etc. Who on earth can realize the Divinity of Rama? All those who follow Righteousness in all their acts can realize Rama's Divinity.

Goal of Life: Every individual must realize the origin and the destination places of his life. When we write a letter, we will write both the 'To Address and the From Address' on it. Any letter without these two addresses will not reach the destination. Such letters will be treated as dead letters. All the dead letters will be put in fire. Our life is very auspicious. We must realize our origin and the destination to sanctify our human birth.

**9).RAMA RAJYA (THE KINGDOM OF RAMA):** For the welfare and wellbeing of humanity, everyone must have the knowledge of Ramayana. Help those who are in trouble, feed the hungry, speak the truth, love your fellow beings for the development of the country, abide to the duty, etc. are some of the lessons we grasp from Ramayana. Man must spend his life on a positive note with good ideals and deeds. A day, devoid of good deeds, will be treated as a dead day.

The significance of Rama Rajya has a Universal message. RAMA = KING (HEART); PEOPLE = BODY. This means Rama is not separate from his people.

In the Rama Rajya, not only Rama but all the people followed Righteousness. Rama as a king had addressed the people to have faith in God and follow a spiritual life. We have seen many rulers in the past but which king or emperor prophesied spirituality? Only Rama did.

In the kingdom of Rama people lived a long and happy life. Everyone got involved in their duties with righteousness.

**10). SOCIAL AWARENESS THROUGH RAMAYANA:** In the spiritual sense, both male and female are treated as equals to females. Only God is the Male entity. All those who overcome desires, anger and jealousy will win the hand of God. Youth will have the strength to overcome these three weaknesses. With old age these weaknesses cannot be overcome easily.

Independence does not mean, we are free to move as we like. The term 'SWETCHA' means freedom. When this word 'SWETCHA' is divided into two syllables, it becomes 'SWA' + 'ITCHA' → 'SWETCHA'. Here 'SWA' means Soul, and 'ITCHA' means liking. Having self knowledge is the real freedom for man. He, who has self knowledge, will enjoy bliss and it is he who enjoys freedom.

All those who treat this world as a 'JAIL' will long for 'LIBERATION'. All those who enjoy self knowledge will no longer crave for such liberation. They enjoy the Divine Proximity.

Nowadays man is not in a position to overcome difficulties. But Rama had many problems. Rama overcome these difficulties with courage and had a message to the humanity.

Follow the Master

Face the Devil

Fight till the End

Finish the game

We all feel that sense control is very difficult. But this is not correct. When we realize the Soul relationship with others, sense control can be easily achieved.

When any part of our body is injured, we suffer pain. While eating food, our tongue may sometimes fall in between our teeth and suffer severe pain. For injuring our tongue, do we punish our teeth? No. The reason being both the teeth and the tongue belongs to us.

Don't find faults in others. We must realize our own faults and sacrifice them. If you open our eyes we see thousands of men before us. But when we close our eyes, we see nobody. The entire creation is in our vision only. Man is seeing God in an Idol, but he is unable to see God in a human. If man cannot see God in a living man, can he find God in a dead corpse? No. Because God dwells in man, he is treated as auspicious (SIVAM). If this Sivam is absent, then it is a dead corpse.

IGNORANCE is related to lack of WISDOM

Lack of WISDOM is related to ATTACHMENT

ATTACHMENT is related to ANGER

ANGER is related to ACTION

ACTION is related to BIRTH

BIRTH is related to SUFFERINGS

A Thermometer helps us to learn the body temperature of man. Likewise the acts of man will reveal the true nature of an individual. Man enjoys the three states. They are the state of Ignorance, the state of Desires and the state of Good Behavior.

The VISION of the Lord drives away the SIN from us.

A DIALOGUE with our Lord drives away the HURDLES from us.

CHANTING of Lord's name will LIBERATE man from all actions.

Road to Bliss: If we select our own path, and act accordingly we cannot attain bliss. We can attain bliss only when we complete the given task with love.

Hanuman entered Lanka in search of Sita. In those days, seeing women is a lapse. Having seen so many women in the process of searching Sita, Hanuman felt miserable and felt like committing suicide for his lapse. But he soon realized his mission. His mission is to search Sita. In this task assigned by Rama, Hanuman gained confidence and courage. He drops the idea of committing suicide and enters Ashoka Vana in search of Sita.

In our daily lives we are experiencing two types of powers. They are Physical and Mental powers. Physical Power comprises of Worldly Power, Political power and Physical Powers. Mind Power comprises of Morality, Righteousness and Spirituality. Mind Power is far superior to Physical Power. Hence Morality, Righteousness and Spirituality have a profound impact on man rather than the Physical powers. Hence man must adhere to these three mind powers within him.

If we sincerely wish for the welfare of our society, then we must possess these good qualities. They are

- We must have total faith in good deeds.
- Lack of hatred, jealousy and ego.
- The good deeds done by an individual or the society must be accepted and encouraged.
- To feel happy without prejudice over others prosperity is a noble quality. To help others with selflessness and sacrifice is the noblest act. However great an individual may be, if he lacks good qualities, he will perish like demons Raavana, Hiranyakasipu. They lack pious qualities and Divine grace and hence slip to inhuman acts.
- A man with Ego will lose his discrimination. A man of Jealousy will behave in an unkind and uncharitable way. A man of Anger will lose all good virtues.
- Sathwik food does not mean consuming milk, buttermilk etc. Sathwik food means,

To consume optimum quantity of food,

To see good with our eyes,

To hear good with our ears,

To smell good odors and

To make friendship with good people.

**The three debts:** In our society, we are indebted to three people. They are

**a). God's debt:** In our body God dwells in every inch of it in a flowing form. Hence God who resides in our body is called as 'Angirasa'. 'Anga' means body parts. 'Rasa' means liquid which flows. So this body is meant for performing good deeds. Only when we do good acts, we can clear God's debt.

**b). Sage's debt:** Our ancient sages have supplemented us with vast knowledge. They lead a selfless and simple life and showed us the ideals of life. They sacrificed their lives for the well being of our society. We must follow the path shown by these enlightened souls. Only then we can clear their debt.

**c). Parent's debt:** Our father and mother take care of our sustenance and maintenance right from our birth until we complete our education (grow up big). For the well being of the children, our parents follow our ancient traditions and customs. We too must follow suit, following the traditions and customs of our parents. By following our ancient traditions and customs, we will bring glory not only to our parents but also to our grandparents.

‘Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadhanthi’, means God is only one for everyone, but the learned scholars say that the same God exists in different forms.

For the DEVOTEES He is experienced as GOD

For the ILLUMINED men He is experienced as SOUL

For the WORSHIPPERS OF DIVINITY AS POWER, He is experienced as POWER

For the SAGES He is experienced as ETERNAL TRUTH

If we expect something in return for our actions, then we have to take another human birth.

The fruits of an action, or a human birth, or righteousness may not reach man immediately, but the fruits of sacrifice will reach man very soon.

We must not believe that our duty is our righteousness. Everyone must perform acts in such a way so that they never cause problems to others around. Perform acts without interfering others freedom.

**Haste makes Waste:** When we contemplate on God for five minutes, all our anxieties and tensions will come down. During the moments of rage and anger, men commit mistakes and suffer for a life time. Hence we must control our anger when others blame us for our lapses or irritate us to weaken us. We must maintain our cool under all odds.

Today in the fields of Morality, Spirituality, Worldly affairs, Politics we find unauthorized persons ruling the roost. They are power mongers. They want to enjoy power without realizing the integrity, efficiency, eminence and the responsibilities.

OUR PROPERTY is the KNOWLEDGE

OUR WEALTH is the CHARACTER

OUR EARNINGS is the RIGHTEOUSNESS

Man must realize the importance of the human birth at an early date to raise himself to the next higher state i.e. God. With his demonic and animal tendencies he must not demote himself to the lower birth.

See God in all objects but never claim that all objects are God. There is God in a table, a book and an idol. Because there is God in the table, don't claim that table is God; an idol is God, etc.

Detachment does not mean sacrificing our properties, kith and kin and retiring to a forest. Our attempt to lessen the burden of the existing material bonds is detachment.

To be reduced

To be improved

1). Desires

1).Sacrifice

2). Worldly Attachments

2). The sense of Soul Consciousness

3).The six sins

3). The six virtues

#### 4).Bad Habits

#### 4). Human Values

When we have fever, we will lose the taste and does not relish the food we take. In the same way people who are habituated with vices and lower motives will not heed to morality.

For the ignorant men	→	Humility
For the wicked men	→	Good Words
For the Cunning men	→	Moral Stories
For the men involved in Bondage	→	Knowledge
For the miserly men	→	Detachment
For the angry men	→	Peace
For men of desires	→	Narrations and live examples

Just like seeds when sown on a rocky soil will not germinate, the above seven combinations will not yield positive results. When we come across the above seven types of men we must face them boldly, says Rama through Ramayana. We must never surrender to these men as they cause our doom.

## 2. LATENT TRUTHS OF RAMAYANA

These latent or general truths of Ramayana will not only correct our lives but also help us realize our goals quickly. These truths act as stepping stones of our progress. If we understand these latent truths carefully, we will definitely gain confidence and stick to this righteous path.

Do we need both the external and internal paths? Yes. We need both the paths to lead a meaningful and a eventful life. Observing our Society we learn many things. However rich a person may be, he is not happy. A highly influenced person may have power and many followers, but he is still not happy. A person may possess very high educational qualifications, but still he is not satisfied. A person may have good behavior but still is not happy. If this is our observation, then we may ask who is happy in our Society. To this query Baba replied, “All those who Always Follow Truth and implement Righteousness, are the only ones who are enjoying happiness in this Society”. What a technical reply! Such truths are applicable to the entire humanity. We must grasp such latent truths to make our life more meaningful and blissful.

Is it not necessary to learn such latent truths from Ramayana? Is it not necessary for us to learn some self knowledge apart from some knowledge of this Universe? Our mind works (flows) through our senses. Our mind is not seen. But we experience our mind with our senses. In the same way, Divinity is flowing through the five elements. Our mind is limited to the five attributes of the five elements. Hence our mind fails to comprehend the Divinity which is beyond the five attributes. Even our Intelligences fail to grasp the Divinity. Just as our senses receive strength from our mind, so also the 5 elements of this Universe will receive support from the unseen Divinity.

We are humans. Even the intellectuals fail to understand the Divine capabilities. Men with their finite human capabilities cannot grasp the infinite Divine capabilities. Just because God is not seen, do not neglect God. Understand the Formless attributes of the Supreme Lord to the extent possible. God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnifarious, has no birth or death, has no thirst or hunger, is beyond the five attributes of the 5 elements, is Blemish less, has innumerable good qualities to His credit, He is Beyond Time, He is an Eternal Witness, He is Pure, Peace-giver and Liberator. God’s Formless attributes are the infinite treasures of man. The Realized Souls will not lose this opportunity to miss Him They pray God for any number of human births to enjoy this infinite Divine proximity.

Most of us feel that Liberation is our first priority in Spirituality. But Divine proximity is a state far superior to Liberation. God always blesses man with more than what he expects. We need not segregate the inward path and the external path. Our life progresses along with these two paths.

All those who are limited to this external world may feel, “These are not the days for implementing Righteousness”. They may also feel, “To follow Righteousness is a very difficult task”. But Baba through His Ramayana has stated that it is very easy to practice Righteousness in any Era. These are the words of the Supreme Lord. When we read this statement, we all opine, “Is it so”? We may doubt his statement. But if you read these latent truths of Ramayana, you will gain confidence in Baba’s words and will accept him.

**1).THE NEED OF A GOOD COMPANY:** All living beings have 3 types of behavior. They are Tamasik (ignorance), Rajasik (desires) and the Sathwik (good behavior) attributes. Example: We have a Mango. Even the Mango has 3 states.

- \* In the bud state, the Mango has pungent taste → Tamasik State
- \* In the unripened fruit state it tastes sour → Rajasik State
- \* In the ripened fruit state it tastes sweet → Sathwik State

When a Mango is converted into a Mango fruit, we will place it as an offering at the feet of our Lord. In the fruit state, if it is left for a few days, it will be spoiled. So we must offer the ripened Mango at the lotus feet of our Lord.

We have a Tiger in the forest. But the Tiger will never leave its cruelty from birth to death. As the Tiger lived in a forest, it may not leave its cruelty. Thinking so, let us consider a Cat. Feed the cat with milk. But the moment it sees a Rat, it will pounce on the Rat and kills it. So in this way, we can infer that even a Cat will not change its nature during its lifetime. How about Man? Man will definitely change from an Ignorant State to a state of Wisdom. Hence man needs a good company for his change in behavior.

In the Tamasik State → Man will not realize his mistakes.

In the Rajasik State → Man realizes his mistakes but still continues with his mistakes.

In the Sathwik State → Man realizes his mistakes and makes efforts to change for the better.

Man must cross the above three stages and reach the Sage State. This means those who are enjoying the Sathwik State must not stop here. Our elders state that our human body is meant for others' service. So we must come forward to serve our Society. As a ripened Mango is placed before God, Sathwik men must come forward to serve the Society to reach the Sage state.

**2). THE FOUR EARNINGS OF LIFE:** The four earnings of life are Righteousness, Wealth, Desires and Liberation. Man must lead his life with both inward and external paths. The world looks like a complex web. In this complex web, man is not in a position to realize the reasons for his sufferings. But if man understands this latent truth, he can get a lot of clarity over the prevailing problems. Observe the four states.

a).Those who practices Righteousness will earn Righteousness, Wealth, Desires and Liberation.

b). Some men feel that Righteousness is a difficult path to implement. Hence they adopt unrighteous means to amass wealth and to quench their desires. They will succeed in their mission, but at the cost of their good reputation. They are blamed by the Society for their bad practices.

c).Some men put aside Righteousness and Wealth and run after enjoying desires. We are advised not to discuss about such men.

d).The fourth category of men will put aside Righteousness, Wealth and Desires and run after Liberation. Without practicing Righteousness it is possible to attain liberation? No.

Human life is very auspicious. Most of us desire for liberation. After attaining such a precious human birth if man adopts an unrighteous path, he will not attain liberation. If man realizes the mandatory relation that exists between implementation of Righteousness for attaining liberation, then no one on earth will succumb to an unrighteous path, says Rama with a lot of Love towards humanity. Such men will not promote unrighteous measures either.

In Ramayana, before going to the forest, Rama meets his mother Kausalya to seek her permission and blessings. Kausalya tries her best to stop Rama from going to the forest. Rama patiently replies all her objections. In her attempt, Kausalya finally states Dasaratha is motivated by lust and hence his orders need not be obeyed. At this juncture, Rama denied his mother Kausalya's allegation with this latent truth.

**3). MOVE AWAY FROM WICKED, CUNNING, BAD AND MISERLY PEOPLE:** We are very often cautioned to restrain away from bad people. But Ramayana advises us to restrain away from four categories of men. They are the wicked, the cunning, the bad and the miserly men. These four categories of men are mainly responsible for most of our problems. Hence we must keep these men at bay to resolve most of our problems.

We have opted for a righteous path. When we move away from these four men, we are freed from most of our problems and hence gain enough confidence to practice righteousness with much ease.

a). In Ramayana, the 'wicked' is Mandhara. All the people of Ayodhya are eagerly waiting for Rama's Coronation. King Dasaratha has made a public statement to this effect. Hearing this news all the people were celebrating the occasion. But in the entire kingdom it is only Mandhara, who has other ideas. She brainwashed Kaika to stop Rama's Coronation.

b). In Ramayana, Dasaratha's third wife Kaika is the 'cunning' woman. Kaika asked two boons from King Dasaratha. They are 1). Bharatha's Coronation to the Throne of Ayodhya and 2). Rama's exile to the forest for 14 years. The kings in those days are abided to their words. Even King Dasaratha used to keep up his promises. These two boons were promised by Dasaratha to Kaika a long back. Kaika must have asked those boons at that time. Even Dasaratha must have sanctioned those boons at the time of his promise. But this has not happened then.

King Dasaratha announces Rama's Coronation to the throne of Ayodhya. Kaika became a prey to Mandhara's plot. Kaika took advantage of Dasaratha's boons at this moment. Dasaratha tried his best to persuade Kaika in many ways. But Kaika remained adamant. She was very selfish. She showed least concern to the promise made by King Dasaratha to the people. Dasaratha prepared himself to coronate Bharatha to the throne, but insisted Kaika that Rama should stay at Ayodhya instead of going to the forest for 14 years. King Dasaratha expressed that he will die in Rama's absence. But Kaika was unmoved because of her selfishness. All those who are cunning never care for other fellow beings. They neglect others interests.

c). In Ramayana Ravana, the demon king is a 'bad' man. Vaali and Sugreeva are loving brothers. Ravana with bad motives made friendship with Vaali. On the first instance, Vaali rejected Ravana's friendship. After a lapse of time, Ravana made a second attempt. This time Vaali accepted Ravana's friendship. Ravana transferred all his bad thoughts to Vaali. Due to Ravana's friendship Vaali turned bad. Vaali did many heinous acts and finally dies in the hands of Rama.

d). In Ramayana Ravana is the 'miser'. Ravana abducted Sita. Sita is Rama's wife. For this act Ravana's wife Mandodari, his brother Vibhishana, his son Prahastha, his minister Malyavantha, the spies who analysed Rama's army and his brother Kumbhakarna during the war have all condemned Ravana's act and persuaded him to handover Sita to Rama and claim Rama's pardon. In spite of all their wise advice Ravana denied them. This is because of his Miserliness. Thus Ravana became responsible for the destruction of his entire clan in the battle.

We are generally of the opinion that the miser will not participate in the charity acts. But that is not all. Be careful. With his selfish thinking, a miser not only cause many problems to himself but also to all those who are around him.

**4). ALL THE MEN WHO COME TO MEET US:** Just now we have learned the four categories of men to be kept at bay to free ourselves from most of our problems. Everyday a lot of men come and meet us. How can we identify their nature? Everyday four categories of men visit us at our place. Of these four categories we must accept two categories and reject the other two categories. Based on their nature these four types of men are identified. They are called a).Sarasulu (Fair men), b). Praagnulu (Straight Forward men), c). Dushta janulu (Bad men) and d). Kalusha Janulu (Corrupt men).

- \* Fair People (Sarasulu) → They show no interest towards our lapses.
- \* Straight Forward (Praagnulu) → They are very straight forward. They will treat a good act as a good act and a lapse as a lapse. Thus they analyze our acts.
- \* Bad men (Dhusta janulu) → without knowing the facts, and without making any efforts to know the facts they speak ill of others.
- \* Corrupt men (Kalusha janulu) → they commit bad acts before our eyes and deny them.

What a great lesson for all of us! After having learned this truth we must promote friendship with fair and straight forward men. We must invite them with an open heart. We must never entertain the bad and the corrupt men. We must discourage them from coming to our place.

Self knowledge enables us to realize the unity in diversity of all men. Hence all great souls hate sin and not the sinner. The reason being, we must give a chance to improve upon his credentials. Today a person may be a sinner. But after some time he will change into a good individual. For such a change we all must encourage him. This is our responsibility. Of all the four categories, the fair and the straight forward men's behavior will promote this good change. But the last two categories like Bad and Corrupt men will not promote such a change. They will continuously find faults with others. Hence with discrimination, we must entertain and continue our friendship with fair and straight forward men. With their friendship we will definitely progress in life.

**5).HOW SHOULD WE BEHAVE?** We wish that all those men who visit us must be good. We all think that we must never be fooled by others. We have learned the four types of men who visit us. Now it is our turn. How we should behave with others? Ramayana guides us regarding our behavior towards others. Based on our behavior, we are of four types. They are a). Utthama (Good), b). Madhyama (medium), c). Adhama (Bad) and d). Adhama adhama (Very Bad).

a).Good men(Utthama): He readily accepts his lapses and the good qualities in others. This good person will accept his lapses openly without any inhibitions. He accepts others good qualities and is not concerned with others lapses.

b). Medium men (Madhyama): These men will not only accept their lapses, but at the same time will realize the lapses in others.

c). Bad men (Adhama): He will speak of his unpossessed good qualities and at the same time deliberately finds the non-existing faults in others. Example: Ravana.

d). Very Bad (Adhama adhama): He may possess many lapses, but expresses his few virtues only. Self praise is good to a certain extent. But this is an egoistic attitude. He wants others to dance at his whims and fancies. Ex: Ravana.

**6). THE INNER FOES:** With an external outlook, all the while, we have analyzed the good and the bad of those who move around us. But it is now time for us to peep inside our inward nature. With this inward path, we can realize our inner foes.

The inner foes cause extent damage to us than the external enemies. The external enemies may cause harm to us only when we come face to face with them. But these inner enemies as long as they reside in us will cause restless in us. We cannot attain peace as long as these inner enemies reside in us.

The good council we very often deny is mainly due to the pre occupation of our mind with these inner enemies. These are the six inner enemies which malign our mind. They are Desires (Kaama), Anger (Krodha), Miserliness (Lobha), being attracted by worldly objects (Moham), Pride (Madham) and Jealousy (Maatsaryam).

a). DESIRES must be controlled. Man will start enjoying peace as his desires decrease.

b). With ANGER we lose our discrimination and behave in an inhuman way.

c). A MISER is very selfish. A miser always thinks that he only must be benefitted. He will not show any concern for others around.

d). He who is ATTRACTED BY THE WORLDLY OBJECTS wants to possess all those objects. This attitude cause not only restlessness but also buys many problems in the bargain.

e) With PRIDE he expresses his ego in many ways. He will ill treat others.

f). He feels jealousy for not possessing the objects of his fancy. As a result he will not hesitate to cause downfall to others.

Desires are the sons of Rajasik State. Anger is the son of Tamasik State. As we add sticks the fire will flare up. In the same way desires and anger without any control i.e. Satisfaction will grow disproportionately. Pride and Jealousy are the two pests which infect the tree and cause total damage to the tree. Likewise Pride and Jealousy cause doom to all those who possessed them.

All bad men are compared with Ravana. Why? The main reason being Ravana possessed all the six inner foes. Because of his lust and anger he abducted Sita to Lanka. Because of his miserliness he denied all the council to return back Sita to Rama. Once, Ravana went to Kubera, and after knowing that he possessed an Aeroplane (Pushpaka Vimaana), got attracted to it and forcibly took under his possession. Ravana as a demon king has committed many heinous crimes due to his pride and jealousy.

Everyone must realize these inner enemies on their own and make an effort to drive them out to enjoy lasting peace.

**7).THE SIX VIRTUES:** The six sins malign (impure) our mind. Now we shall realize the six virtues which purify our mind. Only with the purity of our mind we can realize our self.

What are these six virtues? They are Inward path, Sense Control, Divine Proximity, Going beyond Dualities, Interest towards Good Things in Life and Acknowledging our Indweller's Response.

- a). By entering the Inward Path, we can gradually reduce the external outlook.
- b). Sense Control means to control both the internal and the external sense organs. Without controlling the Internal Sense organs it is not easy to control the External Sense organs. Internal Senses will be aggravated by lapses created by our vision, hearing and talking. We must discriminate the good and the bad of these aspects during the thought process stage.
- c). God's Proximity does not mean bidding farewell to this world, actions and its results. It is not an ascetic life either. It is not doing selfless acts. Mind is the master of our Senses. It is the mind which controls our thoughts and the Senses. Hence it is mandatory to keep the mind in check with pure thoughts. Our mind relishes a good company. Our mind must be taught good things of our self progress. Mind must be enabled to partake in spiritual acts like chanting of Lord's name and on contemplating God. Our mind must be made to join the social service. Our mind must realize the true Soul relationship. God's proximity is to reflect your true self in your mind.
- d) Going beyond the Dualities is to accept the dualities of life with equipoise. The good and the bad are relative entities. We must submit these entities to the Time factor to go beyond them.
- e).Those who shows interest in good things will gain knowledge. With interest we can achieve our goals quite easily. Without interest, the same work will be attempted laboriously. We must not entertain doubts before attempting a work. When we have doubts, we will not take up to implementation and hence we will be at total loss and ruin ourselves.
- f). Our Indweller will respond to all our acts. We must acknowledge our Indweller. Our Indweller's response will result in our self satisfaction. Any act which does not promote self satisfaction and self confidence can be treated as useless acts.

**8).OUR LIFE JOURNEY:** The first latent truth highlights how knowledge and wisdom brings transformation in us from an ignorant state to a wise and a good person. The second latent truth reveals that we must adhere to righteousness to earn all the four means of earnings. The third latent truth suggests that we must avoid four types of men to free ourselves from most of our problems. The fourth truth enables us to realize the status of men who visit us. The fifth truth educates us the behavior we are supposed to adopt towards our fellow beings around. All the above five truths gives a clear picture of events and men on the external plane. The sixth truth enables us to realize our inner foes and the need to free ourselves from them. The seventh truth enables us to promote the six virtues in us to strengthen our mind and to reflect the true self in us.

With this information in hand, let us concentrate on our life journey. We have heard and read many spiritual things about it. But still we are in a state of dilemma. In this context Ramayana briefly explains us about our life journey. We all are aware of this path. This path is conveyed to us through a very small poem.

Asathomaa Sathgamaya

Thamasomaa Jyothirgamaya

Mrithyormaa amrithangamaya

a)Asathomaa Sathgamaya: All objects which we see in this world will have an entry and exit. All those objects which have an entry and exit are subjected to change with time. 'Jagat' means this world. The two syllables in 'jagat' convey the meaning of this world. 'Ja' means birth. 'gat' means death. So all objects in this world are born one day and are going to perish some day. Such a world will not give us lasting peace and happiness. Such a world will be responsible for all our sufferings and unhappiness. Under the circumstances, it is only God who has neither birth nor death; nor subjected to any changes, can grant us the permanent bliss. Hence we pray God to grant us strength to move from a state of temporary happiness to permanent bliss.

b)Thamasomaa Jyothirgamaya: Human birth is very auspicious. God blessed man with intelligence and spiritual heart. Our intelligences discriminate things and promote us to a higher state. And our spiritual heart can expand to incorporate the entire Universe in it. For this we need Divine Knowledge. Right now we are in ignorance. Hence we pray God to give us wisdom to drive out our ignorance and enable us to a state of light (Divine Knowledge).

c) Mrithyormaa amrithangamaya: When we are put in a prison, we feel the need for freedom. Most of us are not enjoying this mundane world because of their tribulations in life. They want freedom from all the sufferings of life. They want freedom from this birth-death cycle. Man is mortal but Soul is immortal. When man realizes his true self, he will become immortal. He will merge in Divine. Thus Man prays God to give him strength to enable his progress from a finite mortal state to an infinite immortal state.

**9). THE AVAILABLE PATHS FOR SALVATION:** The eighth truth has briefly explained us about the mode of our journey. Now we must have the knowledge of the available paths to reach our destination. There are four paths. They are a).Action Path, b)Devotion Path, c) Path of Knowledge and d)Path of Yoga.

God dwells in our heart. Those who lack this knowledge will make a search for God outside. The infinite Lord cannot be grasped by a finite man. In order for man to attain God, man must overcome all his limitations and progress to an infinite state. This is made possible if only he makes an inward journey and gradually reduces his external outlook.

We have four paths for salvation. In all the four paths the Principle (latent truth) involved is the same. IT IS MANDATORY TO SHIFT FROM AN EXTERNAL OUTLOOK TO AN INWARD PATH. Each path suggests measures to reduce our external outlook. Until we reduce our external outlook, all the measures prescribed in these paths are felt as very difficult or impossible procedures. But once we shift from an external outlook to an inward path, then there will be no looking back. Until we gain confidence with our inward path, we must follow all the measures.

**a).Action Path:** Man opting to action path must take to selfless service. He must not show interest in the fruits of the action. It is the duty of man to act. It is God who delivers the fruits of our actions. When will God grant us the fruits of our Action? What will He give us? How much He will give us? Man must forget all such questions and get involve in selfless service. We don't know about our

progress, but God knows our locus standi of our progress. God will help us even before we ask for His help and guidance. Until then with total faith we must continue our efforts.

**b). Path of Devotion:** The path of devotion is very easy, very heartening, very happy and independent. It just needs a pure, stable and selfless mind. God sees quality and not quantity. God sees our love and not the rest. For the present era, it is advised that Devotion is the most suitable path for salvation. God says that he does not want anything from his devotees. God wants love from his devotees. How can we express our love or devotion for God? Just follow his words and put them in practice.

**c). The Path of Knowledge:** The path of knowledge is comparatively difficult. It needs a disciplined effort. Knowledge without Devotion is mere waste, says great souls.

**d). Yoga Path:** Those who follow the Yoga Path are no more found on earth. The path of Yoga means having no desires, having no relations with the world outside and totally immersed in Divinity. According to Patanjali, to achieve a thoughtless state of Mind is called Yoga. In this way, today we find no one in this yoga path. A Salt Doll entered an ocean to measure the depth of an ocean and got dissolved completely in it. In the same way a Yogi totally merges in Divine.

For all men both the Inward and the external paths are equally important. A Bird cannot fly with one wing. It can fly high with both wings. In the same way the real progress of man is achieved with both inward and external paths. But man is totally neglecting the inward path and getting himself limited to external outlook. This is not proper.

**10).BE SINCERE IN YOUR DUTIES:** The Divine Mission involves four activities. They are a) encouraging the ancient Vedic Literature, b) Sustenance and maintenance of the Knowledge, C) Safeguarding the Interests of the good people and d)Implementation of righteousness in all our acts.

Lord Rama descended on earth and totally behaved as man. He followed Righteousness under all odds and set an example for us to follow him. All those who part take in these four acts will receive abundant grace and blessings from the Lord. The Divine Mission is Eternal. It will continue forever. In this mission everyone must take an opportunity to partake in it. Thus we all must be in tune with God.

In our Society, there are three types of servants. They are a)Adhama (Bad), b) Madhyama (medium) and c)Utthama (Good).

a)Adhama (Bad): These bad servants will spoil the reputation of the boss (God).

b)Madhyama (Medium): They will follow the boss but they will not contribute 100% to the cause.

c)Utthama (Good): These men will apply themselves totally to the given task. They want to complete the given task at the cost of their lives. Example: Hanuman.

After reading Ramayana, having grasped Rama's ideals, we must follow Righteousness in all our acts. All those who Always Follow Truth (trust God), and implement Righteousness under all odds will readily manifest many Divine attributes within and enjoy lasting peace and bliss.

### 3. PRACTICAL TRUTHS OF RAMAYANA

Rama is righteous personified. Only through implementation of righteous acts, Rama became an ideal to everybody. Rama not only faced problems but also faced many tricky situations. Even in those tricky situations Rama came out triumphs with his righteousness. Generally men are afraid of problems. They cannot adapt to a righteous path facing a tricky situation. Under the context, Rama faced all odds (practical truths) with his righteousness and brought home the fact the need to face all such odds in our daily lives.

Our Society comprises of four categories of men. They are men with animal tendencies, demonic tendencies, human tendencies and Divine attributes. Rama with his righteous deeds always expressed the Divine attributes.

Personality Development differentiates men into four categories. In the first state, these men benefit others at the cost of their own personal sacrifices. In the second category, these men apart from wishing their own progress sincerely wish others progress too. In the third type, these men wish their own progress and are least concerned with others progress. In the fourth category, these men knowing that they are losing, will pull down others also in the process. Explaining this phenomenon they quoted Rama as an example in the first category. Rama during his childhood days, while playing games with his brothers, used to get defeated by them in order to make his brothers happy. Dualities form a part of our life. In this context, he who maintains equipoise towards the worldly dualities is the real winner.

In our mundane world, we see different categories of people. Because of their different attitudes we face many problems from them. Apart from them we face many tricky situations in our daily routine. How to overcome them? Rama faced all odds and tricky situations boldly opting to a righteous path and thereby enabled us to realize many practical truths from these situations. In this context, we shall grasp some practical truths from Ramayana.

In the previous chapter, we have learned about the latent truths and in this chapter we will be realizing the practical truths. What is the difference between the latent truths and practical truths, you may ask? We feel as if there is no difference between them. The latent truths in general will be applicable to one and all, and will explain the pros and cons of life. If latent truths are theoretical in nature then the practical truths are facing real time practical lessons of our life.

These practical truths will inspire our lives. They enable us to adhere to Righteousness in all our endeavors under all odds. We practice righteousness following the eternal truth. Every individual can experiment the unseen Divinity through righteousness. Practice righteousness under all odds and experience for yourself the formless attributes of the unseen lord. Some of the practical truths or the lessons that we must learn from Ramayana are briefed below.

**1).IF YOU HARM OTHERS, YOU WILL INVITE YOUR OWN DOOM:** Ravana did penance and got boons from Lord Brahma. As per these boons he will not be killed by anyone except man and an animal. Ravana stands as a symbol of six vices and many bad habits. With these bad traits, Ravana

caused sufferings to many good people. Ravana as a Lanka Emperor, supported by his boons, spent more time in invading more parts of the world and humiliated kings all over the world, rather than ruling his own Lanka.

During these conquests he analyzed his boons. He realized that there is a probability of being killed by man or an animal. He gave a thought on the mightiest man on earth. He got King Dasaratha as a reply for his query. At that time, Dasaratha was not yet married. Ravana again queried. Who is the most suitable lady to qualify as Dasaratha's wife? He realized Kausalya, the daughter of Kosala King, most suitable as Dasaratha's wife. In order to kill Kausalya, Ravana abducted her and put her in a wooden box and threw it on the Ganges River. The wooden box reached the shores of Sarayu River. The fishermen, who noticed the box, brought it to the shore and opened the box. To their surprise they found Kausalya in it. They conveyed this news to the King. Sumantha, the minister got the details of Kausalya and with a royal treatment has accompanied Kausalya to the safe custody of her parents. Kosala King felt very happy and got all the information of Dasaratha, and expressed his desire to give his daughter in alliance with Dasaratha. Thus Dasaratha got married to Kausalya.

See the turn of events. Ravana tried to kill Kausalya in order to avoid the alliance of Kausalya with Dasaratha. But see what happened?

Ravana did not stop here. King Dasaratha is a mighty emperor. Ravana thought that the son of Dasaratha, to be born, may be even stronger than Dasaratha. Thinking on these lines, Ravana again did penance for Lord Brahma, and got a boon from Lord Brahma. As per this boon, Dasaratha should not have any sons. Due to this boon Dasaratha had no sons, in spite of the fact that he married Kausalya, Sumitra and Kaika. All the rulers of their clan were very noble. Dasaratha was agitated for not having sons to continue the most reputed dynasty. Dasaratha performed "Puthra Kaamaesti" ritual in order to have sons. As a result of this ritual Dasaratha's three wives delivered four sons. They are Rama, Lakshmana, Bharatha and Shatrugna.

Ravana wished that Dasaratha should have no sons. He even got a boon to this effect. But see what happened? King Dasaratha with all his virtues is a very noble ruler. He prayed the lord for male children to continue his dynasty. Dasaratha was blessed for all his virtues by the Supreme Lord, who incarnated on this earth by becoming his own family member. It was Rama who killed Ravana.

Men perform actions. But God will decide the fruits of all the actions. Hence we must get habituated to good things of life. This entire Universe is supported by Truth (God). We must follow Righteousness following this truth. Such Righteousness will always triumph. It will never face defeat. Though God is unseen, man must have firm faith in God to uphold Righteousness under all odds.

Analyze this incident. Ravana tried to harm Dasaratha without Dasaratha's knowledge and made all the efforts. But what happened to Ravans's efforts? We all know that man makes efforts but it is the God who delivers us the fruits of his actions. The fruits of actions are not under the control of man. If the fruits of actions are solely under the control of man, then men like Ravana will demolish the mankind. But God is great. He controls the fruits of all our actions. He suitably rewards our actions.

**2). UNITY IS STRENGTH:** King Dasaratha had three wives. They are Kausalya, Sumitra and Kaika. They loved each other as own sisters. Dasaratha in order to have sons has performed the "Puthra Kamesti"-- fire ritual. From the Fire Ritual manifested a Divine person and offered a sweet pudding to Dasaratha, and told him that the sweet pudding be consumed by his three wives, to have sons. Dasaratha equally shared the sweet pudding to all his three wives and asked them to consume it

after a bath. Kausalya and Kaika placed the sweet pudding in their 'Pooja Room' (Worship place) and left for bath. But Sumitra, the second wife has other ideas. She thought that either Kausalya's son or Kaika's son will get a chance to rule Ayodhya. Thinking so, she carelessly placed the sweet pudding in an open place and left for bath. For this negligence, in a split second, an eagle scooped up the sweet pudding vessel and left. Sumitra was very much worried. She was afraid of informing this lapse to the king. But she informed her lapse to Kausalya and Kaika. With a lot of love Kausalya shared a part of her sweet pudding with Sumitra. In the same way Kaika followed suit. Thus the unexpected problem of Sumitra was mutually solved between the three wives. Kausalya and Kaika delivered a son each, but Sumitra delivered twins. These sons started crying a lot. Of the two twins, Lakshmana stopped crying when he was shifted to Rama's proximity and Shatrugna stopped crying when he was shifted to Bharatha's proximity. Sumitra realized the truth for herself and sacrificed her two sons for the service of Rama and Bharatha. The unity of the three wives enabled four sons for Dasaratha, who all loved each other as they grow big. These four brothers with their integrity, unity and love have set as ideal brothers for humanity.

With time, as the drama unfolds, humanity will realize many more hidden truths in this Divine event. After knowing these hidden truths our heart will melt in bliss over the Divine role. What is that hidden truth? There were many Ramayanas written but in no Ramayana, there was any mention made to the whereabouts of the missing sweet pudding of Sumitra. But Sathya Sai Baba in one of his discourses revealed that the sweet pudding vessel of Sumitra, scooped by the Eagle, was dropped near Anjana Devi and left. Anjana Devi consumed the sweet pudding and gave birth to Hanuman. Thus in this way even Hanuman has become very close to Rama.

As humans we may commit some lapses with or without our knowledge and face some problems in the process. But when we repent our mistakes and face these problems with unity, our problems can be easily solved. Those who stand for unity for a good cause will always reap rich benefits in the process.

**3).PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL SCIENCE:** King Dasaratha announced the Coronation of Rama to the throne of Ayodhya. Kaika through her two boons asked Bharatha's Coronation to the throne of Ayodhya, and to send Rama for 14 years exile. Dasaratha was very much upset with these last minute Kaika's demands. He persuaded Kaika to change her decisions. But she was very adamant. Dasaratha unable to bear the demands became very weak and got fainted. The next day morning Kaika called for Rama. Rama came to Kaika and saw Dasaratha lying on the floor in an unconscious state. Kaika informed Rama of Dasaratha's two boons to her. In response, Rama decided to leave for 14 years exile as Dasaratha's order. Rama took the permission of Kausalya before leaving for exile. Sita and Lakshmana accompanied Rama. Dasaratha got conscious. By that time, they wore ascetic robes and were ready to leave for forest. Dasaratha was helpless. He could do nothing. He called his minister Sumanth and ordered him to leave them safely on a Chariot in a forest. Saying these words, Dasaratha fainted again.

Rama was on his way to the forest, on a Chariot. In the meanwhile Dasaratha regained conscious. He was unable to bear Rama's absence. He decided to bring them back. He followed them on a Chariot. He was nearing Rama's chariot. Seeing Dasaratha's chariot fast approaching them, Rama asked Sumanth to speed up their Chariot. Now Sumanth was in a dilemma. What to do? Dasaratha was asking him to stop the chariot whereas Rama is insisting to speed up the chariot. Noting Sumantha's dilemma, Rama told Sumantha thus, "Dasaratha as a 'King' ordered you to safely carry us to the forest. You must obey the King's orders. Dasaratha who is coming now from behind

on a Chariot is only a 'Father'. You must obey a King's order and not a father's order". Realizing this practical truth, Sumantha speeded up his chariot and lost the vicinity of Dasaratha's chariot.

While performing our duties, our bondages and attachments create many hurdles to us. But to achieve our goals, we must overcome such obstacles. In fact in our daily life, it is not only these bondages but also our ego, our inhibitions, our lack of responsibilities, our lack of efforts, etc prove as hurdles and lapses in our efforts. We all must overcome such hurdles with the principles of political science.

**4). ALWAYS BE POSITIVE TO ACCEPT OUR PROBLEMS LIKE SITA:** Kaika ordered Rama to go to the forest. Rama went to Sita to inform her about his 14 years exile. Sita tried her best to convince Rama that she will accompany him to the forest. But Rama was not ready to accept her plea. In this context, Rama and Sita had a dialogue over many issues. They are regarding

a). Responsibilities: Rama told Sita that she must look after the well being of his parents Dasaratha and Kausalya in his absence. But Rama, before leaving for exile convinced Kausalya that her prime duty is to serve her husband Dasaratha's personal needs. Based on this knowledge, Sita convinced Rama that it is her prime duty to take care of Rama's needs and that Dasaratha and Kausalya will be taken care of by other family members.

b). Royal Comforts: Rama again reprimands Sita that it is foolish to leave aside the Royal Comforts and accompany him to the forest. Sita responds that she is a simpleton and that she was never interested in the royal comforts. She convinces Rama that her decision is not made in haste.

c). Regarding increased workload, difficulties and discomforts: Rama again warns Sita that apart from the increase in the workload she had to face difficulties and discomforts in the forest. He says that there will be no proper roads to walk, no delicious food to eat, no friends to move around. Food will be just limited to fruits and Rooty vegetables. Sita responds Rama that she is not afraid of additional workload. She even insists Rama that she will sweep the thorns and stones away on Rama's path. She expresses that she is satisfied with fruits and Rooty vegetables. She says that she will be satisfied sleeping on the floor. She convinces that she enjoys greenery of the forests more than the beautiful palaces.

d). Life in Forest is risky: Rama frightened Sita by saying that there will be many wild animals and demons living in the forest and that they may harm Sita in the forest. Sita says that she has more faith in Rama's abilities to protect her from wild animals and demons. She convinces Rama that all those who are aware of Rama's abilities will not harm her.

e). Problems to be faced in isolation: When Rama is away, Sita has to spend all alone. Many demons live in forests. When Rama is away they may harm Sita. Saying so, Rama cautions Sita to stay back in Ayodhya. Sita says that she can save herself from demons in Rama's absence.

We all must take a leaf out of Sita's attitude. She was least worried of the unexpected turn of events. In fact, she was very gracious and positive while facing the unexpected odds.

**5). HASTE MAKE WASTE. SLOW AND STEADILY MARCH FORWARD:** As a consequence of Kaika's demands Rama, Sita and Lakshmana left to the forest. Dasaratha died as he could not bear Rama's absence. To perform the last rites of Dasaratha the other two sons Bharatha and Shatrugna were not available. Dasaratha's body is placed in oil to prevent putrefaction. Vasista send a word for Bharatha and Shatrugna to reach Ayodhya immediately. They reached Ayodhya. As they entered

Ayodhya, they saw the pathetic faces of the people. They realized that some untoward incidents have happened in Ayodhya.

Bharatha met his mother Kaika. Kaika elaborated the events to Bharatha and tried to convince him of her efforts to make him the emperor of Ayodhya. But Bharatha condemned her efforts straight away without any inhibitions. Kaika tried to convince Bharatha, but all her efforts proved in vain. Kaika has taken a hasty step. She failed to realize Bharatha's intentions. Bharatha was very much upset and hurt his feelings very badly for Kaika's maneuver. Bharatha openly announced to the people of Ayodhya that he will go and bring back Rama to the throne. The entire Government machinery and the people supported and accompanied Bharatha to bring back Rama. In this way an ocean of people reached Rama. As they approached Rama in the forest, Rama called Lakshmana and asked him to learn who is approaching them. Lakshmana went up a tall tree and observed Bharatha among the sea of masses. Lakshmana felt some anxious moments. He suspected harm from Bharatha. He hurriedly ran to Rama and said, "Kaika has sent you to 14 years exile, and now Bharatha is coming with a big army to kill you. So give me permission to fight against Bharatha". Hearing Lakshmana's words, Rama pacified him by saying, "Be calm. Do not panic and worry". Rama's words pacified Lakshmana. And what followed next? As soon as Bharatha approached Rama, he fell at Rama's feet to claim pardon. Bharatha requested Rama to return back to Ayodhya to become the king. Rama acknowledged Bharatha's plea by coronating his feet to the throne of Ayodhya. Bharatha stayed back at Nandigram. He wore ascetic robes for the next 14 years. It was Shatrugna who ruled as a caretaker of Rama's Government, in Rama's and Bharatha's absence.

He, who has external vision, will readily lose their integrity and calmness. They make many hasty decisions. They are carried by the whims and fancies of the worldly dualities. All those who lead an inward path, lead an integrated life. They are aware of both external and internal events. They make steady decisions with their integrity and knowledge, going beyond the dualities of life. They remain calm and conserve their energies.

**6). LET US TAKE PART IN DIVINE MISSION:** When God descends on Earth, it is not only men but various forms of living beings take part in the Divine Mission. God blesses all with his infinite mercy and grace. From Ramayana, we shall learn three such events.

a). Jataayu: Ravana abducted Sita, in the absence of Rama and Lakshmana. Jataayu, a wild eagle who lives on a nearby tree saw Ravana abducting Sita, came to Sita's rescue. It fought bravely and badly injured Ravana. But Ravana with his sword cut off Jataayu's both wings. Rama returned and found Sita missing. Jataayu informed Rama of Sita's abduction by Ravana, and died in Rama's hands. Rama performed the last rites of Jataayu.

b). Sabari: What are the qualifications of Sabari who received so much of Grace from Rama? She was a daughter of a Forest King. They are illiterate men. Sabari was in her youth. She will be married very soon. As per their customs, animals will be sacrificed at the time of marriage. Sabari is against these customs. She pleaded her parents against this custom. But they are adamant. What is the way for her to prevent animal sacrifice? If she stays with her parents, she will be married and animals will be sacrificed. In order to prevent animal sacrifice, she felt that she must leave her home. Thinking on these lines one midnight she left her home, and continuously walked day and night for a few days, until she reached the hermitage of Sage Matunga. Sabari is an illiterate girl. She has no place to live. She decided to serve the sages of the hermitage. She used to clean the road leading from the hermitage to the river bed. She used to pluck flowers and hand them over to the sages. Sage Matunga was extremely pleased with Sabari's services and accommodated her in his hermitage. As time passed

Sage Matunga became very old. One day he called Sabari and told her that one day Rama in search of Sita will visit his hermitage and that Sabari must serve as a host to the Divine guest Rama. Saying these words, sage Matunga left his body. Sabari waited for Rama's arrival. Even she became very old, but she waited every moment for Rama's arrival. Every day she used to bring fresh fruits. All the fruits may not be tasty. So she tasted the fruits and selected the best from them. One day as expected, Rama came to her hermitage. Sabari hosted Rama with her tasted fruits. Rama was excited with Sabari's devotion and blessed her.

c). Squirrel: In Ramayana the role of a Squirrel brought its due recognition. All the monkeys, Rama's army, is busy engaged in building a stone bridge over sea to Lanka. As this bridge is being constructed, a Squirrel wanted to contribute to this task to her might. She carried sand on its back and unloaded it on the bridge. Squirrel is a tiny animal. How much of sand it can carry on its back when compared to the mighty bridge? But the Squirrel received Rama's Grace as three marks on its back.

When we are involved in Divine Mission, God sees our heart, and pours his grace and mercy over us. The above three examples prove this truth. So, be a part of Divine Mission.

**7). REPENTANCE:** Vaali and Sugreeva are brothers. They are monkeys. Both these brothers used to save the sages from the demons. Vaali is very strong and Sugreeva is very intelligent. Vaali for his good acts had a boon. As per the boon, Vaali would receive half of the opponent's power. As per this boon, Vaali will not face defeat while fighting an opponent.

The demon Ravana used to think that he may face death by either a human or an animal. Vaali is a strong animal. So Ravana wants to make friendship with Vaali. Knowing Ravana as a demon, Vaali on the first instance rejected Ravana's friendship. But after some time, Ravana made a second attempt. But this time, Vaali accepted Ravana's friendship. Ravana is a bad man, and with his friendship, Vaali transformed himself into a bad man. Once after killing a demon Dhundhubi, Vaali in arrogance has thrown the dead corpse with all his might, and the dead corpse fell at the hermitage of Matunga. Matunga gave a curse to Vaali stating that he will die if he enters the Rushyamooka hills the place where the Matunga's hermitage is located. This curse served Sugreeva as a boon in the days to come. Due to circumstances Vaali and Sugreeva have turned into bitter enemies. Vaali kept for himself Sugreeva's wife in his custody and threatened Sugreeva's life. Sugreeva in order to escape from Vaali, lived on the Rushyamooka hills. Rama in search of Sita, reached the Rushyamooka hills. Rama made friendship with Sugreeva. Rama learned about Sugreeva's hardships caused by Vaali. Rama promised Sugreeva that he will kill Vaali and will be made the king of Kishkhindha. As per the promise made, when both Vaali and Sugreeva are fighting each other, Rama released an arrow at Vaali. Vaali was grievously injured. Rama came near Vaali and lovingly placed Vaali's head on his thighs. But Vaali is not happy with Rama's loving gesture. He was very furious with Rama's act. With all his anger he questioned the legality of Rama's act. Rama answered all the wrath of Vaali with a lot of Love. A). Vaali asks Rama the reason for killing him. Rama answers that he shot an arrow on his friend's enemy, stating that his friend's enemy will be his enemy. This is the reason Rama claimed for shooting down Vaali. B). Vaali again asked Rama that he must have faced Vaali in a dual fight, and that Rama acted as a coward in this respect. To this Rama replied, that he is a King and that it is his duty to hunt down wild animals in the forest, from a hidden place, to save the sages living in the forest. C). Vaali is not satisfied with Rama's reply. He says that he is the King of Kishkhindha and that he is not an ordinary animal living in the forest. Rama replies that he is an emperor of the country, and that as an emperor he has every right to punish a king who goes against the rules of the land. Vaali as King must serve the interests of the people of the land. Vaali forcibly

took possession of Sugreeva's wife. This is the most heinous crime, which has no excuse and hence the punishment.

For his entire wrath, Rama answered Vaali with a lot of love. Vaali realized his lapses and claimed for Rama's pardon. Vaali sincerely repented for his lapses. Rama seeing Vaali's repentance promised that he will save Vaali from death. With Rama's loving touch, Vaali was recovering fast and relishing. He soon realized that his life will be saved. Vaali realized Rama's Divinity. He wants to die on Rama's thighs. Who will get an opportunity to die in God's hands? Now Vaali got this chance. He did not want to miss this opportunity. So he prayed Rama that he does not want to live anymore, and that he must breathe his last in Rama's hands. Rama accepted Vaali's plea. Vaali died peacefully.

Everyone must realize that they may commit mistakes knowingly or unknowingly in their lives. But when they sincerely repent for their mistakes, God will definitely give them a chance to correct their lapses and overcome them.

**8). SURRENDER:** Ravana with his boons, six sins and bad habits behaved like a demon. Ravana with his conquests humiliated many kings and sages, etc.. During these conquests, it is Vibhishana, Ravana's younger brother, who acted as a Caretaker of Lanka. Ravana's wife Mandodari is a very pious lady and also a great stateswoman. Both Vibhishana and Mandodhari at every possible step, used to gently condemn Ravana's demonic acts. They both realized that Ravana will find his doom one day with his demonic acts. Ravana is a symbol of Rajasik state (desires). Kumbhakharna is a symbol of Tamasik state (ignorance) and Vibhishana stands as a symbol of Sathwik state (pure good qualities).

Ravana abducted Sita. In search of Sita, Hanuman entered Lanka and in the process realized Vibhishana's love for Rama. Vibhishana allotted his daughter Trijata to take care of Sita's needs during Ravana's captivity. Apart from this, Vibhishana condemned Ravana's act in the court. Ravana in rage kicked out Vibhishana from his kingdom. Under the circumstances what is the way out for Vibhishana? Rama. He went to Rama and surrendered at his feet. All the Vaanara Warriors except Hanuman expressed doubts over Vibhishana's integrity. But Rama claimed that it is his duty to safeguard the interests of those who surrender at his feet. Rama promised Vibhishana that he will be made the king of Lanka. Sugreeva, the intelligent commander cautioned Rama at his words. "If Ravana realizes his lapse and returns Sita to Rama, what will happen to Rama's promise of making Vibhishana the king of Lanka". Rama immediately replied, "If Ravana returns Sita and claims pardon, then Ravana will be made the King of Ayodhya".

"Those who surrender to God, God will totally submit himself to His Devotees".

Ravana did another mistake. He appointed two spies to get the information of Rama's army. Vibhishana spotted Ravana's spies, and in no time they were caught and placed before Rama. Then and even now, all the spies who were caught will undergo capital punishment for their spying acts. The same punishment was expected by one and all. But Rama has other ideas. He told that the spies have done their duties and they must not be harmed. Saying so, Rama released both the spies. These spies went to Ravana and cautioned Ravana thus. "Hanuman destroyed the entire Lanka. Now there are many warriors with the caliber of Hanuman. If they all invade Lanka, then the blood of Lankan people will flow through the streets of Lanka. Hence avoid war and make peace with Rama". Ravana was raged with the spy's advice. He kicked them out of the palace. One of the spies, just like Vibhishana has decided to surrender at Rama's feet. He went to Rama and claimed surrender with Rama. Rama accepted this spy's plea. Analyze the turn of events. The spy of Ravana is now in

Rama's camp. What does this mean? This means Ravana's top secrets have been handed over to Rama, personally by Ravana. This spy, who is supposed to die in Rama's hands, has nearly lost his life from his own King Ravana.

In this materialistic world, we can offer our surrender to only those who always follow truth. God is truth and we must surrender to truth under all odds. How truth manages to save man can be realized by the spy's incident here.

**9). HATE SIN AND NOT THE SINNER:** All living beings are Divine in nature. Only the realized souls will experience this truth. The rest will fail to understand this phenomenon. Not realizing this truth, a common man will hate all those who have done harm to him.

All the realized souls will never hate anybody. Instead of hate they promote love towards them.

Ravana abducted Sita and caused a lot of hardships to Rama and Sita. Rama after locating Sita in Lanka went with an army to get Sita back. To avoid the war Rama sent Angadha, as an ambassador for peace. These peace talks failed. Rama has no other alternative but to fight against Ravana. Ravana was killed by Rama in the war. By that time, most of the close kith and kin of Ravana were also killed in the battle. Ravana was to be performed the last rites. Rama told Vibhishana to perform the last rites of his brother, Ravana. But Vibhishana denies Rama's request as he hates Ravana. Rama again told Vibhishana that in case he rejects to perform the last rites of Ravana, then he himself will perform the last rites of Ravana with brotherly affection. To this predicament Vibhishana realized his folly. Though Rama killed Ravana, he never hated him. Vibhishana changed his mind and performs the last rites of Ravana.

All God realized souls dwell in the inward path. But a common man dwells in an external path. All those men who dwell in the external path will be selfish in nature and possess a narrow mind. But those who dwell in an inward path will have a broad heart. These men will see Unity in diversity. They see no differences. They hate none and love all.

**10). GOD CONTROLS THE FIVE ELEMENTS – THE FIRE TEST:** Ravana was killed in the battle. Hanuman went to the Ashoka Vanam to bring Sita to Rama. Everybody was very anxiously waiting to see the union of Rama with Sita. Even the Angels in the sky are eagerly waiting to witness this scenario.

When Ravana abducted Sita to Lanka, Rama expressed a lot of anxiety for Sita's wellbeing. In the battle Rama killed Ravana. For winning the battle against Ravana and for getting back Sita, everybody felt that Rama will express immense happiness. But Rama was in his usual self, expressed no excitement at all. Leave alone the excitement, Rama called his brother Lakshmana and asked him to make arrangements to set up a fire, so that Sita is tested for her chastity in the medium of fire. For this unexpected development, without an exception, everybody felt upset and hurt their feelings. Most of them even got angry at Rama's fire test to Sita. Most of the Vanaraas (monkeys) cried over the situation.

Finite men cannot understand the infinite Divine acts? Sita means good knowledge (Divine knowledge). Rama knows the heartily feelings of Sita. Sita knows that any act suggested by Rama will aim for the welfare of the Humanity and stands as an ideal for the humanity to follow suit. All those who are limited to external outlook criticized Rama. They find fault with Rama's fire test. They criticised Rama's act as meaningless and notorious. But it was only Sita, who from her heart

appreciated Rama's act. Sita conveyed her hearty greetings for this Rama's act. Sita came up triumphs from this Fire Test. Her chastity was proved to the world.

God controls all the natural five elements. Until Ravana's death, Rama must behave like a common man, without revealing his Divinity – in order to kill Ravana -- as per Ravana's boons. Now that Ravana is killed, Rama through this ordeal to prove Sita's chastity to the world got an opportunity to prove to the world that He is the Supreme Lord.

Always adhere to Righteousness, following Truth. You may face life and death situations like Sita did. You may feel that even God is working against you. But be calm and wait for the outcome. You will be immortalized for adhering to Righteousness.

# SATHYA NIRATHI

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### 1. FORMLESS ATTRIBUTES OF OUR LORD

In this Kali age man is blessed with abundant God's Grace for adhering to Truth and for speaking Truth, says Baba. In our daily life we are habituated to many good things in life. But Bhagawan Baba emphasized a lot of emphasis for adhering to Truth (following and speaking Truth). From my childhood I adhered to Truth. In this context, I felt very happy over Baba's message.

**PHYSICAL TRUTH AND ETERNAL TRUTH:** Eternal Truth is God's nature. In our daily life we are not aware of much spiritual terminology. We knew speaking Truth means, not speaking lies. But this is different from Eternal Truth. Not speaking lies is physical Truth. As the name states, Eternal Truth is permanent. But Physical Truth is temporary. Example: Today morning I wore a white dress. In the evening I wore a blue dress. The Physical Truth stands that I wore a white dress in the morning and a blue dress in the evening. This means the Physical Truth, with regard to my dress, changed from white in the morning to blue in the evening. Physical Truth is worldly. But Eternal Truth is spiritual. Realizing these facts man must slowly adopt to Eternal Truth.

**LANGUAGE LAPSES:** In our daily routine, we misinterpret many spiritual words. In the Telugu language we have the terms 'Nijam' and 'Sathyam'. Nijam means the Physical Truth and Sathyam means the Eternal Truth. All those who are in the spiritual path will differentiate the meanings of these terms. But those who lead a worldly mundane life will take the same meaning for both these terms. In English we have the word 'Truth'. In our daily usage we will not write 'Physical Truth' and 'Eternal Truth'. In English we are familiar with the two phrases, 'Always Follow Truth' and 'Always Speak Truth'. In the phrase 'Always Follow Truth', we mean following the Eternal Truth; but in the phrase 'Always Speak Truth' there is no clarity between Physical Truth and Eternal Truth. Only spiritual men can realize apt meaning.

**WE CAN TEST AND FOLLOW ONLY THE ETERNAL TRUTH:** As the Physical Truth will change with time, how can we follow it? We can follow only the Eternal Truth. In this context we all must recollect Mahatma Gandhi's Autobiography, which is also referred to as 'My Experiments with Truth'. How can we experiment this Eternal Truth? At the most, the Physical Truth can be grasped

by hearing and we need not try to experience it. Following Mahatma Gandhi, we all can test and make efforts to experience the Eternal Truth only.

God's nature is Eternal Truth. We all must follow such Eternal Truth. Not only speak but we must also follow this Eternal Truth (hereafter the word 'Truth' refers to Eternal Truth in this book). In this context it is very important to realize the values related to Eternal Truth. 'Always Speak Truth' is related to 'Moral Values'. 'We must speak truth in a friendly and gentle manner' can be related to 'Righteous Values'. 'While speaking Truth we must not hurt others' carry the 'Spiritual Values'. Hence we must speak Truth politely and without harming others. In this way, when we understand the simple truths, Spirituality becomes an easy affair and becomes a part of our life. Only then, our ego will Vanish.

**ONLY WITH SINCERITY WE CAN REALISE THE ETERNAL TRUTH:** Man is getting habituated to the worldly life. We believe only those things that we see and concentrate. We are not showing any tolerance or patience towards the latent things of life. If we do not show any interest towards the latent things in life, how can we realize them? Not realizing the latent aspects, we also lose faith in the unseen latent things. In every object there exists both the visible and the unseen latent aspects. Example: We have Cream in Milk. Fire is latent in Wood. Salt is latent in Seawater. Fragrance is latent in a Flower. The unseen latent aspects help in assigning values to the objects. Not only values, under most circumstances, the unseen latent aspects provides as a main support to the physically visible objects. Example 1: We have a building. The unseen foundation helps as a support to the visible building. Example 2: Man has three bodies. The gross physical body is visible. This body is controlled by mind, which is unseen. We cannot deny our mind, as it is experienced by the five senses. The third subtlest body is the Soul. This Soul serves as a base for the Gross Physical Body and the Mind. We all are embodiments of the Divine Soul. Our Soul is beyond the five senses and hence is beyond the reach of our Mind. Our individual 'SELF'(Jeeva bhava) is singular in nature, whereas the 'SOUL' (Atma bhava) which is the Divine entity is plural in nature. The Soul is the most auspicious being of our existence. When the Soul leaves our body, we are no longer alive. So we must make efforts to realize this Soul, when we are intact with our body. This means we must attain God Realization, when we are with this body. This is Self Realization or God Realization.

**WE CAN EXPERIENCE ETERNAL TRUTH WITH OUR SPIRITUAL HEART:** How is Self Realization? To realize the unseen latent entity which is beyond the reach of our five senses is God Realization. We cannot experience such an entity either with our Mind or with our Senses. That entity which is beyond the reach of five senses cannot be described. But God blessed man with a Spiritual Heart. This Spiritual Heart can experience this latent entity which is beyond the reach of five senses. This is a permanent experience. Our Mind which runs after the senses can enjoy only temporary happiness. Our Mind is experiencing Sound, Touch, Form, Smell and Taste through the five senses. All the five senses are limited in nature. As such they must be put to proper usage. But man is very ambitious. He is extensively using them and in the process buying problems in daily life. But the Eternal entity is supplementing everlasting Bliss. So man must be selective. He must opt for permanent bliss. What is the way? He must control his mind and thereby the senses.

**ONLY A PURE MIND CAN REFLECT THE ETERNAL TRUTH (DIVINITY) PRESENT IN US:** It is not possible for an ordinary mind to grasp the infinite Divinity. Our mind must not only become pure, but also must gain enough spirituality to realize this infinite truth. The impurities of the mind are the six sins. Man in order to attain progress must relinquish these six sins at the earliest. It is not enough if we drive out these six impurities from our mind. It must attain spirituality by the practice of the six virtues. The six virtues are Inward Path, Sense Control, and Attaining nearness to

God (infinite Divinity), Going beyond the Dualities, Commitment towards Good things of Life, and lastly following our Indweller's Responses. With these six virtues our mind will become quite powerful. Now let us concentrate on the attributes of the mind. They are the Speed, Instability, Wavering Nature and the Power of the Mind. Of the four attributes man must control the Speed, Instability and the Wavering Nature of the Mind. Only then the Power of the Mind can be realized. This powerful Mind can go beyond the five senses to realize the ultimate Truth or the Eternal Truth. Such a mind grasps many 'Specials' from the Eternity, which a normal man fails to do. A common man even fails to accept such 'Specials' readily. Why? These 'Specials' are infinite in nature and a common man is in a finite state.

**DEVOTION IS A PART OF SPIRITUALITY:** There are sixteen aspects related to mind with regard to spiritual progress. They are the six sins, the six virtues and the four attributes. Of the sixteen aspects, there is only one aspect related to God. And that is Uparathi i.e. Nearness to God i.e. Showing God to our Mind. The remaining 15 aspects are related to personality development. So in order for man to go beyond the five senses it is important to concentrate on these 15 aspects. All the sixteen aspects help man to progress spiritually. Devotion is one of the sixteen aspects. So man must realize this Truth. He must not get limited to Devotion leaving aside the other fifteen aspects.

Let us imagine that the mind has gained enough strength to go beyond the five senses. Such a mind will reflect the spiritual heart in it. This means, this mind will have a clear knowledge of the infinite status of the spiritual heart. Such a mind will always co-operate with the spiritual heart. Such a mind will merge with the spiritual heart.

**GOD DWELLS IN OUR SPIRITUAL HEART:** That entity which is beyond the five senses is infinite and eternal. But it is beyond the reach of our senses. Words fail to describe such an entity. But our spiritual heart is experiencing it. Baba has said that our Spiritual Heart is broad enough to encapsulate the entire Universe in it. Our mind and our spiritual heart are two entities. If our mind is strong enough to go beyond the five senses, it is not enough. Along with our mind, even our spiritual heart must change for the better. How is our spiritual heart in a ignorant man? It is filled with bad habits. These bad habits narrow down our spiritual heart. If so, how to broaden our spiritual heart? We must practice the five human values. What are the five Human Values? They are the Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-Violence. Those who get habituated to the five human values will drive out the bad habits from them and manifest Divinity in it.

God resides in our Spiritual Heart. Those who fail to realize this truth will search for God externally in this world. As long as man searches for God externally, He is not to be seen or manifested. So after knowing this truth what must be our strategy? We must adapt to an Inward Path. This means we must diminish our external outlook. We are advised to reduce our external outlook, but we are not advised to avoid it.

**GLORY OF AN INCARNATION:** When God incarnates on Earth, how many Souls are benefitted? In terms of percentage wise, very few. God's Grace is compared to Sunlight. Sun is showering the same light on the entire humanity. But if we close our doors and windows, the Sunlight will not enter our homes. When there is darkness in such homes, the inmates must not lament over the darkness. They must instead, open their doors and windows, to allow Sunlight into their homes. In the same way, just like Sunlight, the glory of an Incarnation will spread the entire Universe in quick time. When we have our spiritual outlook we will become aware of this Divine glory, and reach the Divine Presence and make amends for spiritual progress. The others who lack the spiritual quest may or may not realize the Incarnation and thus are not benefitted directly.

**DEVELOP LOVE TOWARDS GOD:** On one occasion Bhagawan Baba stopped talking to His students. Normally Baba speaks to His students with a lot of love. This is a daily routine. But when Baba stopped talking to them for a few days, they started feeling anxiety. They are feeling that they have committed something wrong to displease Baba. In this way, Baba avoided the students for one week. The students could not bear this silence anymore. When Baba was on Darshan rounds, they surrounded Baba and pleaded Him to break the silence with the students. Baba in a mechanical way stated, 'See I am moving with you and talking with you'. But the students were not satisfied. They again pleaded, "Baba, You daily speak and move with us showering a lot of Love. We cannot live without Your Love". Baba takes every opportunity to correct the students. Baba asked them, "How many of them 'Like Me' and how many of you 'Love Me'?" To this unexpected question the students are in a fix. They don't know what to reply. After a little lapse, Baba Himself replied, "All those who 'Like Me' will only like Me but will not follow me. On the other hand all those who 'Love Me' will not only love me but also follow Me". This important message is not only meant for the students but is valid for the entire humanity. What is our status today? Today most of us 'Like God', but we are not in a position to 'Love God'. So man must transform his liking for God to Love God.

**WE ALL MUST EXPERIENCE GOD IN OUR SPIRITUAL HEART:** People from all walks of life and from all parts of the Globe are reaching Puttaparthi to see Bhagawan Baba. Why? They have realized Him as God in human form. In this context there will be many aspects which need our introspection. When we reach such an incarnation, how must we see Him? We must see Him with our spiritual heart and not with our physical eyes. If we see Him with our physical eyes, He will appear like any other normal human; but if we view Him with our spiritual heart, we will realize the Divine Master in Him, and we will never leave Him. We will follow Him forever.

**WE MUST NOT GET LIMITED TO LORD'S PHYSICAL FORM ONLY:** In this way most of those devotees who made regular visits to Puttaparthi and followed Baba's message, at the end of the Incarnation, are again distancing from Baba's activities. They are not participating in the Avataric Mission. What they have learned in the process? They only developed interest only in His form but failed to realize God's Infinite Formless attributes. As they are not aware of the Formless attributes of the Lord, they have attributed all the glory only to the physical form. Such men, when they lose the physical form from their presence, their faith in God takes a back seat again. They are again losing faith in God.

**MAN MUST SWITCH GEARS FROM GOD'S FORM TO GOD'S FORMLESS ATTRIBUTES:** Very recently I met a relative in his home. He is having the habit of reading the Shirdi Sai's 'Gurucharitra' every week. In this way, he has read it many times so far. When he told me this, I asked him, "What have you learned by reading this Gurucharitra so many times?" He could not give me a reply. Helping him, I again asked him, "In Guru Charitra you read Shirdi Sai's miracles and His Divine message. What have you learned from them?" Taking the clue from my question, he replied, "Yes, I have learned Shirdi Sai's miracles and His message from reading the Guru Charitra. What more can I learn from it?" Then I answered him, "You must learn God's Formless attributes by reading His miracles and His message. Only when you learn God's Formless attributes, you will develop true love to God. Only when we develop true love for God, we will follow Him". Bhagawad Gita and Shirdi Sai's Guru Charitra are meant for practice and not for mere reading. He was satisfied with my reply. In this context, I advised him to read books on Sathya Sai Baba to grasp many Eternal Truths from them. He got my point.

**IN THE SPIRITUAL PATH WE MUST REDUCE OUR DESIRES:** Krishna was giving a lot of advice to Arjuna through His Bhagawad Gita. But Arjuna could not grasp the Eternal Truths quite easily. He was left with a lot of queries. In order to simplify and clarify Arjuna, Krishna asked “Do you want temporary happiness or permanent bliss”? To this Arjuna replied that he want permanent bliss. How can one attain permanent bliss? When we do action without craving for the results, then we will be entitled for permanent bliss, says Lord Krishna. Man accepting this truth must become selfless, develop detachment, develop love for God and follow Him in all his deeds.

All those who want to make spiritual progress must concentrate on two aspects. They are 1) They must reduce their physical desires. 2) They must come out of the shell from God’s Physical form. As long as man gets limited to the Divine form, he cannot concentrate on the formless attributes of the Lord. Man must gain a lot of spiritual strength to accept God’s formless attributes. Man must make a slow beginning. First he must learn all the various formless attributes of the Lord. And for the efforts made, during the spiritual progress, he gradually experiences all the formless attributes of the Lord. As the formless attributes slowly gain ground within us, we will slowly get detached from God’s physical form. And coming to the desires, we will soon realize that this entire Universe belongs to God and that God knows and supplements our needs better than us. In this Universe, it is only man who has desires. The other living beings of God’s creation have no desires. In this regard, God has not spared man. God advised man thus. “The body of man is meant to serve other living beings”. By realizing this truth, man must develop selflessness, detachment and get ready to sacrifice to serve others cause.

**GOD’S FORMLESS ATTRIBUTES:** All objects having a form will have limitations. But God’s Formless attributes have no such limitations. But man shows interest towards God’s Form and concentrates all his energies only on God’s form. But man is not at all inclined to show interest towards the Formless attributes of the Lord. As our mind is limited, it always inclines towards the Divine Form. As long as our mind gets absorbed to the Divine Form, how can man grasp the infinite Formless attributes of the Lord? This is not possible. The impressions of God’s form must be deleted from our Mind to surge pass them and experience the formless attributes. To attain this man must go beyond his mind to reflect his spiritual heart in his mind.

Without having any knowledge of the Formless attributes of the Lord, even if we read Shirdi Sai’s Guru Charitra, man is not going to gain much spiritual progress. He is fixed to Divine Form. He will not come out of his shell. So it is mandatory to have knowledge of the Formless attributes of the Lord before experiencing them.

What exactly is Devotion? How Devotion helps man in his spiritual progress? Man’s LOVE FOR GOD is called Devotion. When we love God, we will follow God and improve our personality, I.e., we will attain spiritual progress i.e. we will march towards infinity.

After learning the formless attributes of the Lord, when we read Shirdi Sai’s Guru Charitra even once, our love for God multiplies manifold. Through all the various incidents of Guru Charitra, we can realize the infinite love of God showered on all beings of His Universe. When man is aware of God’s formless attributes, naturally the transformation begins within an individual. He will remove his bad traits i.e. the impurities of the mind and the bad habits of the spiritual heart. Thus the mind attains purity and the heart becomes broad to manifest divinity within. Thus man gains ground into God’s formless attributes to attain infinite bliss.

Let's all have a quick glance at the formless attributes of our supreme Lord. Our liking for God must be transformed into love for God. This is possible if only we experience the formless attributes of our Lord. Bhagavan Baba has clarified, that 'liking for God' will not benefit much to the Sadhak, but 'Love for God' will promote spirituality in him. Devotees must realize these precise truths.

Let us try to make efforts to grasp the formless attributes of our Lord. Now we shall visualize some of the features of the Formless aspects of our Supreme, Infinite, Latent, Unseen Lord.

**1) OMNIPRESENCE:** God is omnipresent. i.e., God is present all over this Universe – in all living beings and things. As we cannot see Him with our naked eyes, we do not understand this phenomenon. Let's come to physics. We have Gravitational Force, Magnetic Forces, Electro Magnetic Waves, the Theory of Sound, etc, all under operation throughout this Universe. But a common man is unaware of these laws, as they are beyond our five senses. But through Physics all these laws have been proved and well established. So through Physics some of these existing truths can be grasped; but how about the unseen Lord? Baba referred Science to the letter 'C' and that of the Spirituality to 'O'. In the letter 'C', both the ends do not meet whereas 'O' makes completeness. This means, in Science we face many unsolved mysteries, whereas in Spirituality we will have all answers.

Now let us assume Shirdi Sai or Sathya Sai in our midst. Sitting before Sathya Sai who is 5'-3" height, we will not believe that He is Omnipresent. Omnipresence is an infinite entity. With our naked eyes we are habituated to see the physical form only. But when we experience Omnipresence in His presence, our Bliss knew no bounds. Example: On one occasion Baba manifested a ring and gave it to a foreigner. After some time, the ring was lost. This foreigner could not recollect how he lost his ring. He felt very sorry for it. After some time he made a visit to Baba again. Baba called him for an interview. In the interview room, he told Baba about the loss of his ring. Baba, in a thrice, brought back the same lost ring and give it to him and said, "You have slipped this ring into the Seawaters, when you are on board the ship". When Baba brought back the ring, Baba's hand and ring were wet. For recovering his lost ring, he went into ecstasy. This man slipped his ring a few thousand miles away from Baba. But Baba brought the same ring in a thrice. How is it possible? Can a common man do this? This is Omnipresence. Man cannot prove this phenomenon of Omnipresence. Man can prove the laws of Physics and establish them, but he need not make any efforts to prove the Formless attributes of our Lord. Among all the Scientists, it was only Einstein who used to express solidarity with God openly. In this incident, we can realize God's Omnivorous, Omniscient and Omnipotent entities also. God has expressed how, when and where the ring was slipped from the finger into the sea, and brought it back in a thrice. On introspection of such incidents, we can realize that we cannot hide anything from God. This awareness helps man's spiritual progress.

Only God can manifest His Omnipresence. Being in Baba's presence, with such incidents, man must slowly understand the Formless attributes of the Lord. When we understand this Omnipresence, we will gain a feeling that our lord (who incarnated as Sathya Sai) will be with us, wherever we are. This feeling promotes our faith in God.

**2) OMNISCIENCE:** Our Lord is Omniscient. We cannot see our mind and our spiritual heart but we know what is there in our mind and in our spiritual heart. We do not know the mental spree of others who are very familiar to us or those who are standing next to us. But our Supreme Lord knows all (6 billion people) our thoughts at a given point of time. This phenomenon is called Omniscience.

Now let us assume that we are in the presence of Sathya Sai. He is aware of all the mental spree of all the individuals of this world. What is the status of man? At a given point of time, we can learn what is there in our mind and not about the rest. There are billions of people all around the world. How come Sathya Sai, in human form, can be aware of all the mental spree of the entire men? So we doubt Him. Example: Bhagawan Baba daily receives hundreds of letters from His devotees. Will Baba read all these letters? We all have this doubt in our minds. On one occasion Baba called the Convener of the Sri Sathya Sai Organizations, New Delhi into his room. Upon entering Baba's room, he saw Baba picking up one letter after another and without reading them is throwing into the dustbin. Seeing this, he felt very sorry for Baba's act. He felt that devotees convey their desires and anguish through these letters, but Baba without reading them is throwing them into the waste basket. This continued for ten minutes. After ten minutes Baba called this Convener by his side and told him to pick up any ten letters from the heap of letters and asked him to read them silently in his mind. The Convener replied, "Baba these letters are supposed to be read by You. So please excuse me from reading them". For this gesture Baba replied him, "All the while you are thinking that I am throwing the letters without reading them. I need not read these letters. I know the contents even before they put them on paper. Now I called you to prove this point. So select any ten letters from them and read them silently in your mind. I shall disclose the contents of those letters. The Convener randomly selected ten letters, read them silently and for each letter Baba disclosed the contents to the Convener.

Thus the Supreme Lord is Omniscient. He is aware of all our thoughts. We cannot hide even a single thought from His Omniscience. So when we realize God's Omniscience, all our bad thoughts will be naturally controlled. We will be slowly habituated to positive thinking. This positive thinking will enable purity of our mind and broadening of our spiritual heart. As our hearts broaden we accept the Oneness of all Divine Souls.

**3) OMNIPOTENCE:** Our Supreme Lord is Omnipotent. This entire Universe is under His control. We see the Incarnation Sathya Sai in our presence. Seeing Sathya Sai's form we all doubt His Omnipotent capabilities. How can this man control this entire Universe?

On one occasion, in an interview room, Baba revealed that the entire Universe is under the control of His right hand palm. An incident speaks of this truth. On one full moon day, Hislop was travelling with Baba in a car. Hislop was very pleased with the full Moon scenario. Baba asked Hislop, "Do you want to see the Full Moon in a close range"? Hislop obliged. Baba immediately showed the full Moon in His palm. As Baba is showing the full Moon in His Palm, Hislop could not view the full Moon in the sky.

In Brindavan, Bangalore, Dr.Gokak used to stay next door to Baba. Dr Gokak could see all the visitors of Baba as they had to pass before him. On one occasion, Dr Gokak went to Baba's room and saw a lorry load of Sweet boxes in His room. Dr.Gokak was perplexed. Who brought them into His room? He has not seen anybody carrying these sweet boxes into Baba's room. Unable to control his anxiety, Gokak asked Baba about the sweet boxes. Baba replied that He himself carried the sweet boxes into the room. Gokak was even more perplexed with Baba's reply. Noticing Gokak's uncertainty, Baba replied, "My devotees have dispatched a lorry load of sweets to me. This lorry met with an accident. At the time of accident I carried them here". Dr.Gokak is a Gnaanpeth Awardee. He is the first Vice Chancellor of the Sri Sathya Sai Deemed University. Man may be very eminent in his relative field, but he is unaware of the formless attributes of our Lord.

On one occasion, a Scholar told Baba, "You are a Sankalpa Siddha i.e. You can materialize your thoughts into deeds". Baba corrected him by saying, "I am not Sankalpa Siddha, but I am Siddha Sankalpa i.e. I can materialize thoughts into deeds in a fraction of a second".

On another occasion a Scholar told Baba, “Baba You get energy from the five elements. Is it not”? Baba immediately corrected him. “I am not gaining Power from the five elements but in fact it is Me who is supporting the five elements”.

In this way, it becomes clear for us, that the most eminent men in our Society are not in a position to grasp the infinite Omnipotence of our Lord. Men must not experiment God’s Formless attributes. He can only experience them in his spiritual path.

**4) OMNIFAROUS:** Our Supreme Lord is Omni farous. Our Supreme Lord knows all the details of our past, present and the future. Our Supreme Lord maintains the entire data of all living beings with Him. This is simply mind boggling. Man under no circumstances must compare himself with God. The best thing he can do is to surrender at His feet for a meaningful, eventful and blissful inward journey ahead.

H J Dora, as an SP of Anantapur, visited Baba at Puttaparthi, a long back. Baba then addressed him as ‘Police Chief’. Dora served the State as Director General of Police.

All the devotees who visit Baba for the first time from very far off places and countries were very much surprised to hear their past events of their lives from Baba. Some of these events have occurred before Baba’s advent? How can Baba reveal all such details? Knowing God’s Omnifarous nature, it is apt to surrender at His Lotus Feet.

**5) ETERNAL WITNESS:** God is our Eternal Witness. Today many among us have no faith in the law of Cause and Effect. Hence we neglect this Law. But God enables man to reap the benefits of his actions. How can God workout the arithmetic involved in all acts of men and award the fruits of one’s actions? He records all actions.

On one occasion, a college student at Bangalore had a cigarette smoke in a lonely place. Baba asked the student about his smoking. The student denied Baba directly. Baba immediately created a photograph, which revealed all the details of his smoke. The student claimed pardon before the Eternal Witness.

All the Hindus are familiar with Yama and Chitragupta. On one occasion Baba asked those present near him, “Do you know who Chitra Gupta is”? Nobody replied. Baba replied, “In the term Chitra Gupta, Chitra means Photograph and Gupta means hidden inside. This means Chitra Gupta resides in every individual and records all the individual’s actions”. We all must be aware of such Divine Truths.

On one occasion Baba gave an interview to a woman. Baba shows a lot of interest in Poor Feeding activity. This woman was very ambitious to gain Baba’s attention. Baba told that we must feed the poor with quality rice which we use in our homes. This woman interrupted Baba by saying that she is following Baba as per His words. Baba went inside and came with a begging bowl and some bad quality rice in it, and showing this bowl and rice to this woman, He said, “When I came to alms to your house, you served Me with this bad quality rice”. The woman accepted her lapse before Baba.

It is not possible for man to observe the wide range of Divine acts. In fact there is no need for such an effort. But such phenomenon helps man to limit into a good path.

**6) GOD IS BEYOND ALL SENSES (GUNAA THEETHA):** This Universe is made up of five elements. They are the Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Sky.

I have experienced many formless attributes of our Lord. I am experiencing them in my spiritual heart. These experiences carry truth, but they are beyond words of description. How to express and share such experiences to our fellow beings? How can I express God’s Formless attributes to my fellow beings? I used to ponder a lot in this regard. Under the circumstances I have learned this knowledge from Bhagawan Baba. Baba revealed this phenomenon in a scientific way.

After realizing the scientific facts I felt extreme bliss. Since then I have told many people about this Divine phenomenon.

All the five elements carry attributes. Earth carries five, Water carries four, Fire carries three, Air carries two and Sky carries one attributes. The Five attributes of the Earth are Sound, Touch, Form, Smell and Taste. Water has four attributes. They are Sound, Touch, Form and Taste. With the decrease of one attribute from Earth to Water, observe the differences between Water and the Earth in relation to movement, energy and occupancy. Water occupies 70% of World when compared to 30% by Earth. Regarding movement Earth is immobile, whereas Water is mobile. As water carries more Space and mobility it is more energetic than Earth. Fire has three attributes. They are the Sound, Touch and Form. With the decrease of one attitude, the space, mobility and the energies of Fire are very much higher than Water. Air has only two attributes. They are Sound and the Touch. With these two attributes Air capabilities increase manifold than Fire. Sky has only one attribute, the Sound principle. Thus with one attributes Sky covers the entire Universe, has more mobility and carries a lot of energy. So with the decrease of each attribute the space, the mobility and the energies are increasing. And now let us come to the Divine Phenomenon. It has no attributes. So what can we infer about God? He is Omnipresent i.e. all pervading, Omniscient and Omnipotent. The Omniscience nature travels the entire Universe every second. God's Omnipotence phenomenon supplements energies to the five elements. In this way, Baba – The Supreme Lord Himself -- described this theory of Divinity as beyond the reach of the five senses.

Of the five elements we can see Earth, Water and Fire with our naked eyes. But we cannot see Air and Sky with our naked eyes. But do we deny them? No. Why? We are experiencing Air and Sky with their attributes of Touch and Sound. Now comes the most important query of our life. Is it necessary for man to deny God just because He is not seen? No. He is beyond the five attributes of the five elements. Man must make efforts to experience such Divine phenomenon through his spiritual path.

Bhagawan Baba helps us with some additional information in this regard. We have our mind. How it works? Our mind works through our five Sense Organs and five Action Organs. Can we see our mind? No. But we are experiencing our mind through these sense and the action organs. Our mind is giving strength to all these sense and the action organs. When we listen carefully applying our mind, we can remember what we listen. What we observe carefully applying our mind, we can remember what we see. In this way our mind is strengthening all our organs. In the same way, the Divine phenomenon which is beyond the reach of the five senses is passing through all the five elements and strengthening them. With this explanation we must gain confidence in the unseen, latent Divine phenomenon which is beyond the reach of the five elements.

After all, man is also made up of five elements. The Divine Phenomenon is passing through all our five elements. There is no doubt about it. But until we gain some Divine experiences our faith in God will take a back seat.

**7) GOD HAS COUNTLESS NUMBER OF GOOD QUALITIES (GUNASEELA):** Who is the best servant of man? It is God. Hence He is referred with so many names. We have just now described God as beyond the five attributes of the five elements. Now with such a background we learn the good qualities of the Divine phenomenon. We just cannot count the good qualities of the Divine phenomenon. But while adoring God we adore God with 108 names i.e. 'Astotharam' and with 1008 names i.e. 'Sathanaamavali'. By adoring God in this way, we recollect the good qualities of our Supreme Lord. Only upon experiencing the good qualities of our Lord, our spiritual progress will gain momentum. Bhagawan Baba's good qualities were remembered by his devotees through 'Astotharam' and 'Sathanaamavali'.

**8) GOD IS BEYOND TIME:** God is beyond Time. In the beginning the 'Time' phenomenon has not existed. The 'Time' phenomenon is created by God. As God created Time, Time is under the control of God. Example: Man created a Watch. This Watch helps man to learn the passage of Time. Man who created this Watch can also control the slow and speed movements of the Watch. On one occasion, Mr.Kaul went to Parthy to visit Baba. Baba called Kaul for an interview at 8.55 am. At 9.00 am the regular bhajan starts, and Baba attends the Bhajan. So before the bhajan starts Baba can speak to Kaul for only five minutes. He immediately called his wife who is sitting in the women's side. By the time they entered the interview room, three more minutes tickled away. Kaul understood that Baba can spend only two minutes with them. When Baba called Kaul for an interview, Kaul was initially upset for the short time span left before bhajan, for his disposal. But now he is left with only two minutes time. But by now Kaul's attitude changed. He felt very happy, for getting a two minute opportunity to spend with Baba. The interview started. Instead of two minutes Baba spend more than 30 minutes with Kaul. Baba revealed many things during this interview. Kaul was very much satisfied with this interview. At the end of the interview Baba opened the door. Kaul heard the sound 'Aum' as the couple came out of the interview room. Kaul thought that the bhajan is over. But to his surprise the Bhajan song has started with a Ganesh Song. Kaul was actually expecting that the Harathi will be given after chanting 'Aum'. But as the Ganesh Bhajan song started, Kaul was surprised and looked to his Watch for Time. The Time was 9.00 am. He was surprised beyond imagination. How come more than half an hour experience with Baba is completed as just two minute affair? Kaul in his book has mentioned about this incident. He told that he has no words to describe this event. God controls time. God expanded a 2 minute time schedule into a 30 minute affair.

God is beyond Time. With Time we Age. But the Divine Phenomenon which is beyond Time is Ageless. How to grasp this? We all know that objects perish with time. Once, Howard Murphet was given 'A wooden Cross with Christ' on it. Baba while giving it to Murphet told him that the Wooden Cross is made up of the same Wood as is used by the 'Crucifixion of Jesus'. How can Baba get that Wood which existed some 2000 years back? That wood might have perished a long back. The answer is that Baba, the Divine Phenomenon, who is ageless, has gone back 2000 years to get back that particular piece of wood.

God is beyond Time. We can experience a couple of such incidents in Bhagawad Gita also. As the Maha Bharatha war is about to start, Lord Krishna explained the 700 slokas of Bhagawad Gita to Arjuna. For a common man it takes a lot of time to even read the 700 slokas (stanzas). But how it materialized? It may be one more experience of Kaul's experience. In the same event, Lord Krishna during His Viswaroopa Darshan (Universal Form Revelation), showed Arjuna of many things, including the killing of the Kauravaas even before the start of the war. How is it possible? God, who is Ageless, beyond Time can see the past, present and the future events. Man must clearly understand this phenomenon. The wicked are punished for their acts and the good are saved for their good acts. This does not mean that God has already written our destiny well in advance and that we have no role to play on this earth sojourn. This is how the idle man's brain works. We must therefore make proper use of our available time and resources to make proper use of our God given human body.

**9) GOD IS IMPARTIAL:** In our home our parents judge our good and bad actions. In School, our Teachers judge our good and bad behavior and guide accordingly. At our work place our Boss will administer our capabilities. So in our daily life we all need this scrutiny of our acts. If there is no such scrutiny of our acts in our Society, then good acts will lose their identity.

God is impartial. He scrutinizes all our actions and rewards our actions. Man must involve in good actions. It is God who awards man with the fruits of his actions. The entire resources

of this nature belong to God. Hence God has every right to distribute the fruits of His resources to its users.

God has given us this body by which we perform all our actions. All the resources of God are at the disposal of man for his sustenance. But how is man's attitude towards these God's resources. Most of us do not understand properly the God given resources. India accepts the law of Cause and Effect. If we sow Mango seeds, we will reap Mango fruits. And if we sow Lime seeds we will reap lime fruits only. When we sow Mango seeds it takes a few years for the tree to yield Mango fruits. In the same way, for all our actions, it is He who knows when and how to deliver the fruits of our actions. In this context, our elders have informed us about the three types of fruits we reap for our actions. They are called 'Sanchita', 'Prarabdha' and the 'Agaami'. We don't know the actions of our past lives. In this life, let us assume that we are limited to good acts. But we may feel that we are not reaping the fruits of our good acts in this life. Not realizing what we have done in the past, we start blaming God for what we recur now. This is not desired. God is impartial. He delivers the fruits for all our acts. Hence it is always advisable for man to love God instead of developing hatred towards Him.

Here is a farmer who owns ten acres of land. This farmer will pay to all those who works for him in the field. The farmer is entitled to reap the harvest and enjoy it. Those who work in the field are satisfied with the wages. They will never crave for the farmer's harvest. In the same way this entire Universe belongs to God. We all are supposed to work with God's resources that are at our disposal. Man must follow Righteousness to win the Grace of God. God is infinite. He can bless man with finite or infinite remuneration. When man works in a finite way, he is rewarded thus by God, and if he works in an infinite way, then God blesses him accordingly.

Man must learn the art of sacrifice. In God's creation it is only man who is selfish. God has not spared man in this regard. He directs man to lead his life for the sake of others. In fact the first lesson of God to man is Sacrifice, says Baba. So those who fail to understand this truth will expect fruits for their deeds. But when the expected fruits are not delivered they blame God for their misfortune. This is not proper. The resources of God are meant for the progress of man from a finite state to an infinite state. All those who misuse God's resources will blame God. But those who properly utilize God's resources will always express gratitude for giving them a golden opportunity to work with such resources.

**10) GOD IS VERY PURE:** God is very pure. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. Here Cleanliness refers to Purity. Man is a finite being and God is an infinite entity. From a finite plane it is not possible for man, to grace the purity of God.

In the first step to grace the purity of God, the mind of man must be pure. We take a bath to clean our body. It is just not enough if we clean our body. Even our mind must be pure from six sins. Even if our mind is pure, we still cannot grace the purity of God. We must develop the six virtues within us. That is not enough. We must control the speed, instability and the wavering nature of the mind, in the third step. Even then we cannot grasp the purity of God. In the fourth step, man must free the bad habits from his spiritual heart. Even then he cannot grasp the purity of God. In the fifth step, he must practice the five human values under all odds. Until then man cannot realize the purity of God.

The Divine phenomenon or the Universal Consciousness, which is all pervading, is a very pure entity. In order for man to transform from 'I' to 'We' he must develop a pure mind and a broad heart. Only then man will break all his finite bonds. Only then he will enter into infinity. When man realizes his infinite stage, he realizes that he is a part of this Universal Consciousness.

We know the 24 natural teachers of Dattatreya. Sea is one among them. What is the message of Sea? Sea covers 70% of the world. It thus covers a very large area but when some object

is thrown into the sea, what will it do? The object is thrown back to the shore. In the same way, God being a very pure infinite entity, it will not entertain an impure finite entity into its fold.

**11) PEACE GIVER:** God is a Peace Giver. Who is blessed with Peace? The answer is very simple. All those who follow God are blessed with Peace.

In our Hindu mythology, we have a very interesting story. Lord Siva is known for His Kind Heartedness. He used to grant boons to all those who pray Him. Parvathi is Lord Siva's spouse. She objects Siva for granting boons so easily, claiming that they will forget God, once they received the boons. Siva answered Parvathi's anguish in this way, "No doubt, I am granting them boons, but I am not granting them peace of mind. So without peace of mind, a man cannot forget God". This story carries two messages for man. 1) Man cannot attain peace from his worldly mundane. 2) God blesses man with peace to only those who follow Him.

Peace is an infinite entity. God blesses man with such peace. This Peace when experienced by man will not leave him thereafter.

Related to Peace, here is another tough story for man to digest. Sathya Sai on many occasions has delivered in His message, the incidents of Shirdi Sai and the message that carries with these incidents. Man must properly understand the story and the message. The message of Baba, "Man faces many hurdles, financial problems and hence restlessness. As a true friend, you all must show him the way to God". This message sounds strange to us. "We must help those who are in difficulties. We must also solve the financial problems to the extent possible. But what is this message? We are advised to show the path of God"! Baba elaborated a big story to convey the message. "Today, under the prevailing circumstances how many are sincerely making efforts to solve others problems and difficulties? Today we may help them in solving their problems but very soon, they may come again with some more problems. So in this way, to what extent one can solve others problems. So what is the best way to solve the problems of man"? "The best way is to show him the path of God". Yes. As a true friend, when you show him the path of God, and be with him, he will solve all the problems by himself, by the grace of God.

Bhagawan Baba delivers a lot of message for the well being of man. But the message reaches very few individuals. The rest of the humanity is missing these all important messages. These messages are simple truths and can be practiced by one and all. In one of His message, Baba gave this message to all those who follow God. God blesses man with five boons who follow spirituality. They are 1) Health, 2) Financial Progress, 3) Self Confidence, 4) Self Satisfaction and 5) Bliss.

God's words are final. God is showing many paths to bless man with Peace, but man is not taking these messages to his heart. He is more attracted to the worldly mundane rather than God. Hence he is failing miserably to attain peace.

**12) LIBERATOR:** God grants us the Liberation from the cycle of Births and Deaths. All those who adapt a spiritual path set liberation as their goal. Man with his finite attitude is always limited in his goals. Here man with his finite thinking sets liberation as his goals. But when man progresses spiritually from a finite state to an infinite state, the goal of liberation will Vanish. In an infinite state, he sets another goal i.e. "proximity of God".

The attitude of man in finite state differs vastly from an infinite state. In a finite state they feel that Liberation is the final goal for them. They feel that it is very auspicious. They feel that this Liberation is a rare commodity. They feel that there will be one in a million who will be granted liberation by God. They also feel that the liberated souls will not be born again. They feel that to escape from the dualities of life, liberation is the only path. Now let us view 'Liberation' from an infinite plane. What is Liberation? Liberation means 'Release'. Release from what? Release from a

prison. What prison? The prison of life. So the simple truth is that as long as we view our life as a prison, we crave for liberation. Is it not?

From an infinite state, this liberation is a very easy process. It can be attained very quickly. Man wants liberation. How liberation can be attained so easily? The word 'Swetcha' in Telugu means 'Release'. The message lies in the term Swetcha. The term Swetcha is comprised of two words. They are 'Swa' and 'Itcha'. Here Swa means Soul. Itcha means desire. This means that when man realizes his true nature, then he will be liberated.

Man with his finite attitude, thinks that liberation is attained only after death. This is again wrong. All those who are in the infinite state enjoy liberation even when they are still alive. This means that when we know our true Self, we start enjoying liberation within, from that moment itself.

All those who enjoy liberation, will not crave for liberation. What will be their goal? They want to enjoy the Divine proximity every moment. This state is conveyed to man through Bhagawad Gita. The name of the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Bhagawad Gita is 'Moksha Sanyaasa Yoogam' meaning, he is ready to sacrifice liberation for the sake of Divine Proximity. So in a finite state, God is an unseen entity for them but in an infinite state God is experienced every moment and thus longs for His proximity.

**13) GOD HAS NO BIRTH AND DEATH:** All objects that have a form will be destroyed one day. This is a Universal law. As per this law, even when God descends on Earth and takes a form, at the end of His Mission on Earth, the Incarnation will shed His body. But during His life sojourn, He will set Himself as an ideal for others to follow. The Incarnation leaves behind Him His everlasting message to the humanity.

Bhagawan Baba is an Incarnation. Knowing this fact, a Scholar wished to see Baba sleeping. On one occasion Baba called all the Scholars into His room at around 9.00 pm. This Scholar is one among them. As the meeting was going on, at 10.30 pm, this Scholar felt very sleepy. Noticing this Scholar in a sleeping state, Baba told him, "You want to see Me sleeping. But God will never sleep". This Scholar was surprised for this unexpected turn of events.

The Divine phenomenon has no Birth and Death. When there is no Birth, there will be no Death too. Such a Divine phenomenon will exist in all living forms. Such a phenomenon can manifest in any form, in a thrice.

All the Objects in this world are unstable and fleeting in nature. Such objects will not give lasting peace and happiness to man. Only the Divine phenomenon which is eternal and infinite can pave way for everlasting Bliss.

**14) GOD HAS NO THIRST AND HUNGER:** He who possesses a body will be subjected to thirst and hunger. In all living forms it is God who resides in them. What is He doing inside? He is digesting the food and converting into energy. Hence we pray God before eating our food. Apart from digestion, our Indweller takes care of us in many respects. He always guides us for our well being to attain everlasting bliss.

God takes care of our sustenance and maintenance. God promised man to this effect. But why so many among us are suffering with lack of food? Once Baba went to Bombay(Mumbai). Karunyananda accompanied Baba during that trip. He stayed back at the host's residence while Baba went to attend the program. Along with Baba all the inmates also went with Baba to attend the program. There is a dustbin just opposite to the host's residence. Karunyananda saw a group of beggars fighting for food materials, thrown into the dustbin. When the Almighty God is physically staying here, he did not wished to see such a pitiable situation outside. His heart felt pain. When Baba returned back to the Host's residence, Karunyananda told Baba about the dustbin incident and asked for His clarification. Baba replied, "See they have wasted a lot of food in their past life. Now they are running after their thrown away food". This is a great lesson for the entire humanity. Food is

God. We are aware of the food cycle in nature. A lot of effort is put to grow food grains. Man must realize the importance of each and every food particle. Not realizing such simple truths, man is wasting a lot of food. He must prevent such wastage.

Bhagawan Baba eats very little food. That food may supplement 200 calories of energy. But Baba is busy throughout the day. Such an effort needs more than 2000 calories of energy. One day a devotee asked Baba, “Baba, You work a lot, but You consume very little. Don’t you feel hungry”? To this Baba replied, “The Bliss of my devotees serve as my Food”. We are familiar with a popular song of Baba. It states, “Love is my form. Truth is my breath. Bliss is my food. My life is my message and Expansion is my life.....”. This means that when we help for others cause, our physical hunger and thirst will not bother us.

**LAWS OF PHYSICS:** We are aware of the laws of Physics. Most of these laws of Physics are beyond the reach of the five senses. But these laws have been tested and established by the Physicists. All these laws will be applicable for eternity. But man cannot experience these laws physically as they are beyond the reach of the five senses. But man is indirectly experiencing these laws of Physics, through various inventions. These laws of Physics are scientifically proved. But how about the Divine Law or the formless attributes of the Lord which are also applicable all over the Universe? The Divine Law cannot be proved scientifically. All the laws of Physics have at the most one, two or three parameters and as such have been scientifically assigned a formula for their execution. How about the Divine Law? God has countless number of parameters at His disposal and all the parameters are beyond the reach of the five senses of our mind. So how such Divine phenomenon can be established? Not possible. Baba said, “All the people of this world, even if they make research for their full span of life, it is not possible for them to realize the Divine phenomenon. Man can only experience such a phenomenon but cannot investigate it”. Such a Divine phenomenon can be experienced only through spiritual heart. Can we deny our everlasting spiritual experiences? No.

The Scientific Community is working constantly with the laws of Physics and new inventions are taking place with time. How about the unseen Divine phenomenon? Very few spiritual giants like Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Ramana Maharshi, Aurobindo Ghosh etc have experienced the formless attributes of the Lord and revealed them to the humanity. Their number is far below the scientific fraternity. “Today all the men involved in Religion are not spiritual giants. They are not aware of the infinite Divine Phenomenon. They are in a finite state and they prescribe finite methods for the well being of the Society”. As such the Divine phenomenon with all the Formless attributes is not given much emphasis by the present day religious men all over the globe.

When the Divine phenomenon with all the formless attributes is brought to the knowledge of a common man, then there will be only one God for the entire humanity. There will be one religion for the entire humanity. So the Divine phenomenon with all the formless attributes of the Lord must be given top priority to achieve Peace in this world.

I have experienced many Divine experiences. I shall relate here a few of my experiences.

**FATHER’S FINAL DAYS RESEMBLE BHISHMA’S FINAL DAYS:** When I adopted my daughter Sai Lakshmi into my family I used to feel that God will take care of her well being. To be frank, when I brought Sai Lakshmi into our family, I have not yet settled down in my life. I never felt that I shall perform her marriage in a grand style. All such thoughts, I have submitted under His care. Our Sai Lakshmi was born on 11-5-1989 and she was christened as Sai Lakshmi by Baba.

Our Sai Lakshmi's marriage was fixed with Kiran. Both our family members were closely related. They have not demanded any dowry. They requested us to perform the marriage at Hyderabad. We stay in Ravulapalem. In Hyderabad the families of my brother Srinivasa Nagi Reddy and Co-son-in-law Lakshmi Reddy have taken care of the entire marriage process.

The purohits have fixed 22-11-2008 for their marriage engagement and on 7-12-2008 for performing their marriage. But my father had a severe paralytic stroke on the right side of his body on 21-11-2008. He could not speak, could not intake any food – not even water. Father was admitted in a hospital. He was kept in the Hospital for two days. The marriage engagement was held in my brother's house. Those two days father had no sleep. I am attending my father and I too had no sleep. Father was pulling all the four tubes. It became a very hard task to control my father day and night. So I have decided to shift him to home, so that all the family members can look after him well. We brought him home on 23-11-2008. A nurse who is doing night duty in the same hospital has readily obliged my request to look after my father during day time at my residence. She stayed in our home and did selfless service to my father for 50 days. She has not accepted any remuneration for her services. On 25-11-2008, my father went into coma. On that day my father's condition has become so serious that my mother told us to bring him down from the cot. We all thought that my father's final moments have come. With father's death everybody feared postponement of the marriage. But I had no such fears. I had faith in God that He will perform the marriage as per the schedule. From such a final moment's status, father slipped into coma. The day passed away without any untoward incident. From that day, all my family members, except my wife, gained confidence that my father will be alive until marriage. Father's condition was very serious, but he is in coma. Our relative Dr. Ramakrishna Reddy, who retired as a Superintendent in Railways Hospital made a visit and told us to shift father to a hotel, so that in the eventuality of father's death, we can carry on with the marriage rituals. All our family members replied him that nothing will happen to my father until marriage. Hearing these words, he left my father on a happy note. Due to father's serious condition, we have not distributed wedding cards until 30-11-2008. By God's Grace our Sai Lakshmi's marriage was held as schedule. All our family members heaved a sigh of relief and conveyed our gratitude for His infinite Grace and Blessings.

When father was brought home from the hospital, all the family members looked after him with a lot of care. Father is treated with medicines worth Rs 2000/-daily. In this way 50 days passed and my father was still in coma. An injection syringe was fixed on father's left hand and thereafter in right hand to inject injections. During these 50 days both the hands swelled and the injections could not flow into my father's body. In the meanwhile we brought home a specialist Neuro-surgeon, who diagnosed my father and advised us to continue the same medicines. He expressed satisfaction for the treatment given to my father.

It was 10-1-2009. 50 days passed since the paralytic stroke. Both the hands have swelled. There is no change in father's condition. Under the circumstances we have decided to shift father from Hyderabad to Ravulapalem in my brother's car. We reached Ravulapalem. After two days brother and sister left to Hyderabad with their families.

It was 15-1-2009. On that day my mother was very dull from the morning. She was all right but was very sad. All these days she showed a lot of courage. It was 2.00 pm in the afternoon. Kantamma, a Sai devotee came to see my father. She saw my father and told me that his final moments have come. Father was in coma for 56 days. When Kantamma told me that my father's final moments have come, I asked her for clarification. She replied that my father's eyes are fixed. All these days, even though my father is in coma, he was moving his eyelids.

Father was very fond of Bhajans. Father is so fond of Bhajans that a Sai Devotee Ramakrishnam Raju has professed that my father will shed his body during Bhajan. 15-1-2009 is a Thursday. It was Kanumu, the big festival day. Kantamma insisted me that I should arrange for Bhajan immediately, calling all Sai Devotees and nearby relatives. Anyhow we will have a Bhajan on Thursday night at 7.00 pm in our residence; saying so I rejected her plea. But she insisted strongly saying that my father will not stay in his body until 7.00 pm. So I conceded to her request. All the friends and relatives were informed of my father's final moments. Most of them reached our home. Father was shifted from the cot on to the floor. It was 4.15pm. We started the Bhajan. When the second bhajan song started, father left his body. Ramakrishnam Raju's loving prediction came true.

The last rites of my father were performed in a most serene atmosphere. Bhajan was sung right through the funeral procession and until the body was cremated to ashes i.e. for 3 hours. Father's 11<sup>th</sup> day ceremony was held in our hall and everybody witnessed the entire ritual. On that day a meeting was held near our home where my father is remembered for his noble qualities.

Just like Bheeshma, my father was in coma for 56 days and left his mortal coil on the beginning of 'Uttharaayana'. Our Sai Lakshmi's marriage was held as schedule. In our brother's home, they have a regular habit of singing a few bhajans every evening. When father was in coma, we used to do daily bhajan for half an hour. When father was in coma, my brother used to speak very loudly to my father, very close to his ears, but there used to be no response from him. But as the bhajans were sung, my father used to move his finger in tune with the bhajan. This must be seen to be believed. During this time Mr Vardhana Rao and Mr S.V.S Reddy came to Hyderabad to see my father. During bhajan, they saw my father responding with his finger in tune with the bhajan. Seeing this, Mr SVS Reddy responded, "I have heard many of Baba's miracles, but I am seeing it right now". There is another incident which we cannot forget. Mr Mohan Reddy, a Homeo medical practitioner came to Hyderabad, on his own, to see my father on 25-11-2008. On that day my father's condition was very critical. He stayed in our house until 2.00 pm. Mr Mohan Reddy believed that my father will breathe his last during his stay at our house. When he left our house at 2.00 pm, a little later my father's condition still worsened. My father's body was getting cold. We conveyed this information to Mohan Reddy. He advised us through phone, to rub the turmeric paste on my father's soles. We followed his advice. Gradually my father's body became normal and my father slipped into coma. Mr Mohan Reddy's visit to Hyderabad to see my father on 25-11-2008 could not be treated as casual. It was just Divine Grace.

In this way all our family members served my father for 56 days. With these experiences, even during my father's death the Great Lord has blessed us with infinite bliss.

**WHEN MAN COMES FORWARD TO PERFORM A GOOD ACT, GOD WILL TAKE MANY STEPS TO HELP OUR GOOD CAUSE:** My mother is a very pious lady. My mother never postpones a good act. In the same way, even I am very pro active. Ever since our marriages, she never made a single complaint against us in all these years. My mother is liked a lot by all her grand children. She loved all her family members.

That was in the year 1989. To perform my younger brother's marriage was our parent's priority. They were in Ravulapalem. My mother has selected a girl, for my brother, who hails from a very cultured family. Mother's wish is that her son will spend his life happily with a cultured girl. At that time I used to stay at Hyderabad. Mother wrote me a letter with this effect. Upon seeing her letter, I left to Ravulapalem with my family. My mother and I tried our best to

convince my father to fix my brother's match with that girl. But at that time, another match came to my brother from Juttiga. They are giving a little more dowry. So we could not win over my father. To be frank, even my father was never a money minded person. My father has helped many persons during their financial crisis and even refused the money when they are in a position to repay him back. We could not go further against our father's wish. My father ordered me and my cousin Mr. Gur Reddy, to go and see the Juttiga girl along with our wives. My cousin stays in Penugonda, en route to Juttiga. Myself and my wife reached Penugonda, en route to Juttiga. During those days, there were very few landline phones available, and hence we have not informed the Juttiga people about our visit. By the time we reached Penugonda, Mr. Gur Reddy's buffalo was in a critical condition. It could not be taken to the Veterinary Hospital. So we stayed back until the Veterinary Compounder came and treated the animal. In this way we got delayed for more than one hour at Penugonda. During this time my brother in laws (Prasad Reddy and Somi Reddy) came from Aravalli to Penugonda in a casual way. They are aware of our Juttiga program only after they met us. My maternal uncle (my mother's brother) has four daughters. Three of them were already married. The fourth daughter is Sujatha. My brother in laws, on their own came forward to propose the alliance for my brother with Sujatha. Taking my permission, they spoke to my uncle and aunt. They accepted the proposal. Horoscopes matched in the favor of this alliance. Without going to Juttiga, we returned back to Ravulapalem and informed the latest developments to my parents. Sujatha was a very soft natured girl. My mother was extremely pleased with this alliance. So too was my father. My maternal uncle gave 4 acres of land to each of his four daughters. On 24-8-1989, their wedding bells rang at Ravulapalem.

When we introspects the sequence of events, the Divine Hand will be visible clearly. Men generally lacking faith in God, treat such events as chance. But what about a sequence of chances! My father, who is generally never after money, in my brother's marriage issue has favored for additional dowry. Is this not a chance? The buffalo was serious and we got delayed at Penugonda. Is this not another chance? My brothers in laws are not regular visitors from Aravalli to Penugonda. Their visit on that day to Penugonda is again a chance occurrence. In the past my mother asked my maternal uncle regarding alliance of my brother with Sujatha. On that occasion, my maternal uncle remained silent. But on this occasion, they conveyed their acceptance for this alliance. Is this not a chance? At that time, I was working in a Software Company. I used to attend to work 7 days of the week. To get two days off from work is a chance for me to make a move from Hyderabad to Ravulapalem. We came to Ravulapalem to finalize my mother's wish, but we moved to Juttiga to oblige my father's wish. In this process, the Penugonda's alliance was finalized. This is the final outcome – the biggest chance happened to our family. "All these chances are related to Time". Hence man cannot think or imagine these events beforehand. Undoubtedly, it was the Divine Hand which directed the entire sequence of events.

Why I have described this event? When we make an attempt for a good cause, God will help us in multiple ways, to materialize our cause.

**UNIVERSAL WELL BEING (God's marriage):** God is only one for the entire humanity. But for the well being of the humanity, God has manifested in various forms. People have preferences for their Gods. They perform various rituals to obtain their grace and blessings. 'Kalyanam' means marriage. The marriages of Lord Rama and Venkateswara were performed as rituals in a grand manner. These rituals are meant for the well being of the humanity. But nowadays these rituals are conducted for selfish gains.

We all have a lot of friends and relatives. How do we share our Love towards them? How are we behaving towards them? We get very few opportunities to serve them. We must do our bit most sincerely. During these attempts we have to contribute very little to their cause. But these minor contributions can pave way for lasting memories for us. In my life, I have many such lasting memories. Now I shall relate one such experience.

Mr. Bhimi Reddy is my wife's eldest maternal uncle. Vani is his daughter. That was in the year 1987. Vani got a match. Mr. A.V. Krishna Reddy was working in Brooke Bond, with a top designation, in Nagpur. Viswanath Reddy was Krishna Reddy's eldest son, who joined in a good company in Ahmedabad. Viswanath Reddy got 4 matches from Hyderabad. They came from Nagpur to Hyderabad to select one of the 4 matches. Krishna Reddy has friendship with my father. As our family is closely related to Bhimi Reddy's family, we are informed to arrange for the meeting of the boy and the girl. At that time MR. Bhimi Reddy was away in his village. In the absence of Bhimi Reddy, the boy and the girl saw each other, in the presence of other family members. On that day at around 5pm, Mr. Krishna Reddy came to our house and stated thus. "we came to Hyderabad to see 4 matches. First we saw Vani. We are interested in this match. So we have not seen the other 3 girls. Because of office responsibilities, we came to Hyderabad for just Saturday and Sunday. Today we have seen Vani. Tomorrow we want to perform marriage engagement with Vani. So inform Mr. Bhimi Reddy of our decision and enable him to be present here by tomorrow morning. Kaika who loved Rama so much has changed her decision with Mandara's plot. We are after all humans. If Mr. Bhimi Reddy does not turn up tomorrow morning, our decisions will change". Mr. Krishna Reddy was crystal clear in his approach. At that time my father was not present at Hyderabad. So Krishna Reddy conveyed the message to me. I have not delayed for a moment. There were no cell phones during those days. Only a selected few have land line connections. How to pass on this information to Mr. Bhimi Reddy, and enable him to reach Hyderabad by next morning? I have to book a trunk call and inform him of the matter. Mr. Bhimi Reddy was away in Jangareddy Gudem. From Malakpet I went to GPO, Abids to book a trunk call. If the information is delayed, it may not be possible for Bhimi Reddy to start for Hyderabad, late that night. To make a trunk call, we have to wait until we get our turn. As there will be more lines in GPO, I went to GPO, Abids, so that the waiting time will be less. In those days, to book a trunk call, Rs 18 was charged. I was not an earning member at that time. When there is no income, even this Rs 18 seems a big sum. As I offer my services with Love, this Rs 18 was not there in my mind. First I made a trunk call to Jangareddy Gudem. I was informed that Bhimi Reddy has just left Jangareddy Gudem to Ayinaparru. So I made another trunk call to Ayinaparru and informed the matter to be conveyed to Bhimi Reddy. I requested the person to move from Ayinaparru to Tadepalligudem to convey this information to Bhimi Reddy. That person responded to my plea immediately. By the time this gentleman moved from Ayinaparru to TP Gudem(35 km), Mr. Bhimi Reddy reached TP Gudem from Jangareddy Gudem( 55Km). Mr. Bhimi Reddy after he got the news, left for Hyderabad from TP Gudem, and reached Hyderabad in the early hours. Even a five minutes delay can spoil the entire effort. If Mr. Bhimi Reddy makes his trip to Ayinaparru, it will be very dark, and in those days it is not possible to make a journey from Ayinaparru to Hyderabad at that late night hours.

The marriage engagement was performed as wished by Mr. Krishna Reddy. Their marriage was performed well.

Here I want to mention a few words about Mr. Viswanath Reddy. He is a very rare personality. He is very efficient in his duty. He treats his guests with lot of love and affection. He loves his wife a lot. He helps her in cooking. He maintains his home in a neat and tidy fashion. If anybody commits lapses, He corrects them gently. He has no bad habits. In other words, he must be

followed by others for his behavior. Even Vani is a very soft girl. With her soft nature Vani enjoys his presence happily and had many lessons from him. I feel I am instrumental in this match.

What would have happened, if I have not responded immediately to the words of Mr. Krishna Reddy? The answer is simple. This alliance would not have taken place. What I have contributed in this alliance is a very meager one. But by the Grace of God, all my meager efforts have been streamlined to materialize this alliance. I still relish these incidents and experience inner joy for it.

We are humans. We must do our bit when the need arises, with love and affection. In these efforts, our contribution will be bare minimum, but we get a chance to reap everlasting bliss. It is the Divine Grace and His involvement which blesses man with such bliss for the sincere efforts. We expect nothing in return for these meager contributions, but when we contribute them with love, we are in store for a bounty back of bliss. Men must realize these simple truths to realize their lives more colorful.

**THE EVERLASTING ‘THANKS’:** As we lead our lives, most of the time we think of ourselves. This is not proper. We must think for the welfare of others. When we think of others happiness and prosperity, and involve in such acts, our participation in such acts through deeds and words may be very meager, but we gain in return everlasting bliss.

Generally, to whom, we convey our ‘Thanks’? We convey our thanks to only those who help us and cause happiness to us. When others hurt our feelings, do we convey our thanks? No. We have our parents. They love us a lot. As children we commit a lot of mistakes in ignorance. For the mistakes committed the children are either reprimanded or punished. Not realizing the mistakes, the children are offended for the parents’ treatment. But at a later date, these children may or may not realize their mistakes. By the time they realize their lapses, a lot of time passes. At this juncture, for realizing their mistakes at a later date, they neither convey ‘Sorry’ to their parents, nor convey ‘Thanks’ to them for correcting them.

In our daily life, we convey bits of help to others and receive thanks from them. But we forget these thanks very soon. But there will be some ‘thanks’ which will cherish in our memory forever. This incident reveals the circumstances in which such thanks will be received.

In 1988-89, I was working in Software Company. We were 5 programmers in our Computer room. Adjacent to our Computer Room, there is a DTP room, where the DTP work is processed. During day time girls used to do the data entry work. During nights boys used to do data entry work. There were around 7 data entry operators for each batch. During day, we are served Tea in our Computer room at 11.00 am and at 4.00 pm by the office attender. This attender has a very famous Telugu Screen Hero as his idol. When he was serving Tea, a couple of programmers and a DTP girl used to make fun of him. On some occasions, they used to praise the hero for which the attender’s face used to glow brightly and on some other times they used to criticize him for which his face used to turn sad and pale. But he never raised his anger in all our presence. That DTP girl was a very good girl. She always bears a smiling face and talks to others smilingly to make others laugh.

One day at 11.00 am, the attender came to serve Tea. I was the only guy present in the Computer room. On that day the DTP girl came to the Computer room a few moments before others. So at that point of time, myself, the DTP girl and the attender were in the room. In her natural way, she cut a joke criticizing the attender’s hero. The attender went into rage. He used vulgar

language against the girl. This girl was shocked for this unexpected rage from the attender. At that time I scolded the girl seriously for making pranks with the attender. When I scolded the girl, this attender became silent in quick time. No sooner the attender became silent; the Computer room was filled with more than 10+ men and women staff. But they don't know what had happened a few moments before.

Four days later when I was alone, this DTP girl came to me and conveyed her sincere 'Thanks'. For reprimanding, I felt that she will not talk to me in future. But I was a little bit surprised when she conveyed thanks to me. I could not understand why she conveyed her thanks to me. "What have I done to you to convey thanks to me", I asked the girl. She replied, "For what has happened in the presence of the Attender". Saying so, she left the place immediately. The incident which happened four days back is not a worthwhile incident to remember. So I have forgotten it then and there. But for reprimanding the girl seriously I felt that she will not talk to me anymore. But to my surprise, she conveyed her sincere 'Thanks' and left away.

Until the girl conveyed her thanks, this incident was no more in my mind. But after she conveyed her thanks and left, I started contemplating on this incident. When the attender was using abusive language against the girl, instead of reprimanding the girl, if I had taken the attender to task, my arguments with the attender would have continued. This means, within few moments, the incident would have been brought to the notice of 12 staff members. Later it would have spread to more than 100+ staff in the company and also to the Directors. The Directors might have dismissed the attender and reprimanded the girl too for playing pranks with the attender. She would have been made a scapegoat for the incident. The girl might have thought in these lines. The girl might have realized that reprimanding her at that moment is the correct decision of mine. The entire episode has subsided within the four walls in just a few moments.

When we have jovial persons by our side, we feel more elated and joyful. We all feel like making friendship with such guys. We all try to support them for their deeds. In fact it is this girl who triggered the incident with the attender. For this one simple reason, I reprimanded the girl only. At that time this girl has committed a very small lapse but the attender reciprocated with a nasty blunder. Analyzing the blunders, if I have supported the girl and blamed the attender, I would have done more harm to the girl. This means, I did a good thing by reprimanding the girl. Until the girl conveyed the 'Thanks' to me, I have not at all analyzed this incident in this way.

When we perform acts with detachment and selflessness, Lord Krishna preached us that we will reap infinite bliss. Ever since the girl conveyed her thanks to me, this incident cherished in my memory forever.

When we enjoy our life for our sake we will not attain bliss. But when we live for the sake of others, we will attain bliss even for very small acts.

In my life I have come across many such incidents, but very few have responded in this girl's fashion. There are many others who have not responded. But I remembered all those incidents who responded positively, and the other events where there is no response, I just do not remember them anymore.

**GET HABITUATED TO CHANTING GOD'S NAME:** In our daily use, we treat some medicines as 'Sarva roga nivarini' i.e. cures all diseases. But for humanity what is that medicine that cures all medicines. This medicine is chanting of Lord's name. Very few men realize the utility value of this chanting. Such Souls are the blessed ones.

In 'Poorva Meemaamsa' it is advised how the deeds are to be performed. In the Karma Yoga, the acts involved Body, in the Dharma Yoga the acts involved both the Body and the Mind, and in the Brahma Yoga the acts involved the unity of thoughts, words and deeds. So we are supposed to follow Brahma Yoga for all our deeds. All such acts not only get limited to good acts but also will reap benefits beyond our human perception.

Divinity is beyond the reach of the five senses. Such a Divine entity is all around us to protect us always under all odds and conditions. So we must be in tune with such an entity all the time. Just like Mahatma Gandhi, I am also habituated to chanting Lord's name. I am also safe under His protection and guidance. I shall reveal an incident.

In the last week of January, 2015 I went to Hyderabad to attend the Exhibition. We come across new inventions in the Exhibition. Depending upon the need we will buy them. This time I purchased a couple of items. With both my hands, I carried these two things. In my front shirt pocket, my newly purchased cell phone was present. I came out of the Exhibition at 7.00 pm. I waited for the Bus for half an hour but not a single bus turned up. After half an hour an Auto driver came and asked me to get into the Auto. I asked the driver about its destination. There were three passengers in it. Without saying the destination, this Auto driver asked me to get into the Auto saying that he will drop me at my place. I replied the Auto driver that I want to get down at Nalgonda X Roads. The Auto driver told me that the Auto is going to Dilsukhnagar and that I can get into it. I got into the back seat of the Auto, where there were already two youth seated. They asked me to shift to the other side of the seat. As I shifted to the other side, the youth has nabbed my Cell phone without my notice. I have not noticed this theft. But after passing some metres, the Auto driver stopped the Auto and asked me to come and sit along with him. He told the person sitting next to him to go back. I could not understand this shuffle. But somehow I felt that the Auto driver is playing some foul play with me. Immediately I responded to chanting to Lord's name. In a few seconds, I felt my shirt pocket weightless. I immediately checked my shirt pocket and realized that my Cell phone was robbed. Realizing this, I shouted with everybody in the Auto, "Just now I lost my cell phone. I want to check all the four of you". In a thrice, the youth who was sitting by my side lifted the Auto back seat and found my cell phone below the seat and handed it to me saying that I might have slipped it while boarding the Auto. These youth has a lot of future. But they are habituated to easy money. I got down from the Auto. I thought of informing the Police about the theft. But out of compassion I refrained from it. No sooner I got down from my Auto, they left me immediately.

On the next day afternoon, I was at my co-son-in-law's house. My wife called her sister on phone and knowing that I am present in her house, she asked her to handover her phone to me. She angrily asked me, "Since morning I called you many times, but why are you not responding me"? Until that moment, I have not realized what had happened. Since the previous evening, I have not made any calls, and I am thinking that I have not received any calls since then. But when my wife conveyed her anger for not responding to her calls, I checked for the cell phone status. It was put to 'Off'. I guessed who put my cell phone in that off condition. The youth not only robbed my cell phone from my pocket but in a thrice has switched it into off status. Robbers divert our attention to get their job done quickly, without our notice. But God is beyond all attributes. Who can escape God's ever watchful eyes?

Until my wife scolded me, I have not realized my cell phone status. But after realizing the status, I have informed what all happened the previous night in the Auto. After hearing me, all her anger turned into joy.

When we apply our body, we will find lapses. Even when we apply our body and mind, we are still not satisfied with our performance. Only with the unity of thought, word and deed, we will attain bliss from such actions. This is a simple truth. Everybody can analyze it without any inhibitions. Only when we undergo such experiences, our faith in God will improve and our trust in the formless attributes will blossom.

In our daily life we are experiencing Divine help in a numerous ways. But not realizing the formless attributes of the Lord, we assume them to be events of chance.

We all must habituate to chanting Lord's name while doing our acts. All the lapses of our deeds will be taken care of by the Divine Hand.

## 2. WITH DIVINE ATTRIBUTES WE MARCH FROM FINITE TO INFINITY

When we shift from a worldly mode to a spiritual mode, we will march from a finite plane to an infinite plane. So we must all, realize the need of spirituality in our daily life. All that is worldly is finite in nature. This finite nature will never grant us everlasting happiness or bliss. So it time for man to realize these simple truths.

This Society and the Mother Nature are giving us many opportunities to march from finite to infinity. We must grab such chances and never miss them.

In this universe, man has all the freedom to live as he pleases. But man is not utilizing this freedom properly, and hence he is restricting himself to a finite state. Man knowing his true Self enjoys freedom. Man is spending many lives, not making any efforts to realize his own Self, warns Baba. Thus man is wasting his precious human birth. How the life of man is wasted? Baba explained thus, “As an infant he is fond of dolls. During childhood, he is fond of games and hence gets close to his friends. As youth, after marriage he is more attracted towards his wife. After a few years, he will be fond of his family. And at old age he shows more interest in amassing wealth for the wellbeing of his family. In this way man with age is shifting his priorities from dolls to games, to wife, to his family and lastly to amass wealth. In the process he is getting old, without learning about his true Self. Only after Self Realization man loves his true Self. This is the real freedom”.

Today man is stooping to low levels. He is not making any efforts to realize the latent infinite qualities in him. Those men who realize their infinite potentials are enabling others also to reach this state in simple means and ways. When man will heed to such advice?

**WHAT IS ‘WIFE’?** On one occasion Baba called a PG student for an interview. In that interview there were many women devotees. Baba asked the student, if he will marry. “I shall marry, with your permission”, the student replied. Baba asked the student to spell the word ‘WIFE’. The student immediately spelled ‘WIFE’. Baba then asked the student, the meaning of wife. The student remained silent for this query. Baba then answered, “Wife means worry invited for ever”. Hearing these words from Baba, all the women were stunned. After a few seconds Baba added, “Wife means Wisdom invited for ever”. With the second reply all the faces of women turned bright with joy.

Baba explained the finite and the infinite states of an object with this simple example. In the finite state man leads a life of worries and in the infinite state he leads his life with Wisdom.

In the above example never compare the term ‘Wife’ as a woman. Both the finite and the infinite states are applicable to both genders.

With a simple explanation Baba describes the finite state of a man (Husband) and a woman (Wife). Once, a newly married couple went to a walk, along the seashore. On the path the husband saw a thorn. As he is newly married, he will personally bend and removes the thorn from the path. After a few months, they went for a walk a second time, all along the seashore. On the path, the husband saw a thorn again. This time the husband ‘informed’ his wife about the thorn in advance, so that she can take her own precaution to cross the thorn. A few months later they went for a walk, a third time. Again the husband saw the thorn on the path. This time he ‘cautioned’ his wife about the thorn. A few months passed, and they went to seashore for a walk. Again the husband saw a thorn. This time he ‘warned’ his wife about the thorn. See how the things changed with time. Here the husband’s love for his wife declined with time. This is how a finite life proceeds.

And let us learn how Baba has referred with regard to woman's role (wife) in the present day life. "A mother will pat the stomach of her son to check his good health and well bring. But today's women (wives) check their husband's pockets for their income (money). The situation is really pity -- an ignorant plight.

Baba referring to Rama's message has stated that both men and women must "Earn Righteousness and not Money". But what is the present day scenario we see in our Society? They are earning money and not righteousness. Man's earnings are categorized into four types. They are Righteousness, Wealth, Desires and Liberation. But today's men and women are running after wealth and desires. This is not proper, warns Baba. All those who earn Righteousness will earn all the four earnings, suggests Baba. So man must rise above his limitations to earn Righteousness.

Everybody must adhere to Righteousness from their childhood. When God Incarnates on Earth, He will adhere to Righteousness. The path trekked by Lord will be an infinite path, to be followed by one and all. It has no limitations. God with His behavior will be ideal for everyone. It is a simple path. This path involves adherence to Righteousness under all odds – right from childhood. We know a stem can be bended only when the tree is small in size. The tree trunk cannot be bended when the tree grows big. Hence it is the duty of all elders to guide our children with our ancient traditions and culture.

Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa married Sarada Devi but not entered into marital life. But he gave advice to one and all that everyone must marry after God Realization. This message states that man can attain a infinite stage at a young age, if follows Righteousness from childhood.

A finite person cannot understand the infinite God's Theosophy. Hence there arise many doubts. Once a person asked Ramakrishna Paramahansa, "You are treated as God by your devotees. But you are not well versed with Sanskrit language. Without learning Sanskrit, how can you become God"? Ramakrishna Paramahansa gave a simple reply, "In order to experience the infinite bliss, there is no need to learn Sanskrit".

We must select an infinite path from our early days in order to attain it at an early date i.e. during youth. When we perform actions in an infinite state, we reap bliss.

**DIVINE ATTRIBUTES ARE FINITE AS WELL AS INFINITE IN NATURE:** All those who practice the five human values under all odds will grace the 18 Divine attributes within. In fact, God grants the 18 Divine attributes in one and all, in everyone's spiritual hearts. We know a Banyan Tree. The Banyan seed is very small but the tree grows into infinite proportions. In the same way, these Divine attributes will flourish in man with the practice of human values, from a finite state to an infinite state, resulting in everlasting bliss.

We see Banyan Trees, growing on dry areas (building roofs and corners, etc). Such trees will not grow big. These Banyan seeds need a soft fertile land to grow into an infinite size. In the same way, we must convert our contracted heart into a broad heart by the practice of the human values. When our heart is broad, these Divine attributes will expand into infinite proportions. During this process we must follow our intelligence and not our intellect (our mind). When we follow our intelligence our spiritual progress will have a natural bearing.

All must learn the knowledge of the Divine attributes. Only when we are aware of these Divine attributes within us, we will find means of spiritual progress. Man is well aware or familiar with 18 Divine attributes. But not knowing their utility value, man has neglected them all

these years. When man realizes that these Divine attributes will help man to realize the infinite God, then man will definitely possess them with great care and fervor.

By always 'FOLLOWING' Truth, the four Divine attributes which develop in man are 1) Fearlessness, 2) Courage, 3) Humility and 4) Detachment.

By always 'PRACTISING' Righteousness, the five Divine attributes that become the core of our being are 1) Duty, 2) Patience, 3) Sense Control, 4) Discipline and 5) Perseverance.

The third human value Peace 'ENABLES' and promotes three Divine attributes in man. They are 1) Everlasting Satisfaction, 2) To be Cheerful Always and 3) To go beyond the dualities of life.

Love 'BLOSSOMS' four Divine attributes. They are 1) Kindness, 2) Forgiveness, 3) Service and 4) Sacrifice.

Non-Violence 'BLOSSOMS' into two Divine attributes in man. They are 1) Compassion and 2) Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man.

We all are aware of these 18 Divine attributes. God granted us all these 18 Divine attributes (Boons) in all our hearts. How we proceed further is in our hands. We must follow the five human values under all odds. We must rely on our intelligence rather than our intellect.

Let us analyze these Divine attributes in their finite and infinite states. When we observe the lives of great men, we will observe these Divine attributes in an infinite state in them. To be precise, all great men promoted these Divine attributes from a finite state to an infinite state, within themselves by their own efforts. These Divine attributes become a part of their lives and are manifested to the external world. All these Divine attributes which are in a finite state in a common man, are therefore not manifested to the outside world. These Divine attributes in an infinite state, express out in great men. Thus with their ideal lives they make an everlasting impact on the Society. These great men might have been no more with us, but their message to the Society will cherish forever in the memories of mankind.

**1). FEARLESSNESS:** We suffer with a lot of fears. All these fears are related to our behavior. All these fears arise due to one simple reason. What is that? We are not realizing the truth. So if we all follow Truth, all our fears will Vanish easily. What is Truth? Truth is God. Truth is permanent, everlasting. This entire Universe is supported by this Eternal Truth.

Who else are afraid? All those who commit mistakes will have fears. In this context, we can assume that all those who are against succumbing to lapses will enjoy fearlessness. But surprisingly, in our Society, there are many individuals who never commit mistakes, but still experience fears. How to drive out these fears? They must adhere to good deeds. They must discriminate what is good and what is bad, they must learn what is finite and what is infinite and they must realize what is temporary and what is permanent? This analysis will drive them to fearlessness. Such as fearlessness is an infinite entity. To attain this state we must realize our own faults. We correct our lapses in the spiritual medium. All great men thus enjoyed a spiritual life. This spiritual life will lead man into an infinite ocean, which is very blissful. A common man is devoid of such blissful state.

**2. COURAGE:** We all have courage. All great men expressed this courage. Many among us are of the opinion that they never commit mistakes and hence have no fears. So far so good. But if you

hand them over a few good responsibilities, they are no more seen in your vicinity. You are fearless, possess the required resources and have enough time and energies to spare, but still you will not come forward to take up to good deeds. Why? They are selfish. They restrict themselves, and hence they lead a limited finite life. We all are part of our society. In our society we see four types of men. They are men with animal qualities, who with their ignorance are causing a lot of hardships to the society. The demonic men are not ignorant, but with their selfish tendencies are deliberately causing troubles in the society. Men with human qualities lead a normal life, without causing troubles to the society. And lastly, we have men with Divine attributes, who with their welfare measures for the society will lead a selfless and a sacrificial life. They develop a broad heart with their fearlessness and courage; they contribute for the good of the society. So when we limit ourselves we will like 'nobody', but when we decide to contribute for the wellbeing of our society, then we will become 'somebody'. To become that somebody, we need that infinite courage.

**3). HUMILITY:** When we hear about humility, we opine to be humble and obedient towards our parents, teachers and elders with humility. We are respecting our parents at home, but in the Society we are disrespecting other parents. We are obeying and following the messages of our religion, but finding faults with other religions. We are saluting our elders and leaders but not realizing the good and great qualities of other elders and leaders. We glorify our religion at the cost of other religions. Thus we are limited and enjoying only a finite state of humility. How to overcome these limitations? Realize the truth that we all are children of the same God. Only when we adhere to this truth, we will develop a broad heart. Only then we will raise above all physical limitations. It is man who created all these limitations. God bears no responsibility to these limitations.

“Realizing the oneness of humanity, we must offer service to the Society. We must love all and serve all. This is the true humility”, says Baba. We all must understand this and experience this infinite state of humility.

**4). DETACHMENT:** Most among us experience temporary detachment, which is in a finite state.

With detachment, we generally are of the opinion that we are going to lose our wealth and possessions. With such fears, most of us keep spirituality at bay. They are distancing themselves from spirituality. Thus they prefer worldly pleasures to God. This is a sorry state of man.

Let us observe and analyze what our elders have taught us regarding detachment. They advised us to lead a life of Lotus Leaf. A Lotus leaf lives in a pond full of water. But a Lotus leaf will not adhere to even a single drop of water. We have another example. We travel by boat in a river. When we travel on boat, in a river, we take all measures to prevent river water entering into the boat. During boat travel, if the river waters enter the boat, then the boat will sink and submerge in the river. Just like the Lotus leaf and the boat, we must remain detached from the pros and cons of life.

The boat is meant for travelling on waters. In order to prevent water from entering the boat, if we keep the boat at bay, then the very purpose of the boat is lost. This is not detachment. In the same way, this detachment must become a part of man's life. He need not distance himself from wealth and other physical needs and commodities. We must go beyond the dualities of life through detachment. All our wealth and prosperity, remains with us. In fact with detachment all these resources will be fine tuned by us, instead of losing them.

Bhagawan Baba has made a few important tips regarding detachment. Let us observe them.

- a) “Getting rid of body attachment is detachment”.
- b) “Getting rid of wealth and possessions is not detachment”.
- c) “To lead a life free from material bonds is detachment”.
- d) “The first and foremost step involved in spirituality is detachment”.

Thus we must be well informed regarding detachment.

Even after understanding the above four means of detachment, man is still experiencing only temporary detachment. Then what are the means for permanent detachment? Man must realize the Eternal Truth, related to our Sense Control.

Man is supposed to execute and express Sense Control. Baba educated the humanity thus. “The sensual pleasure which man enjoys is not coming from Senses. It is coming from the Soul. To prove this point Baba gave a few examples. Generally man enjoys a limited finite state. In this limited state man sees only the limited physical aspects of life. He will not see the infinite Soul responsible for all our acts. As long as we are in this limited state, we will be only enjoying the finite or temporary happiness for all our deeds. Example: We see the Moon. When we see the Moon, we feel that Moon light is coming from the Moon. But the truth is that the sun light falls on Moon and is reflected on Earth. In the same way, we see our senses. But the real truth is, the real source of joy for our senses is our Soul. When we realize this simple truth all our deeds will be streamlined and we will develop permanent detachment, says Baba.

**5). DUTY:** Most of us are engaged in some job. But how many are enjoying job satisfaction, queries Baba. We must do our duty to enjoy job satisfaction. If somebody is asked, “Why are you doing this job”? Most of us will give a common reply i.e. “To earn money”, but nobody will reply “For job satisfaction”.

How can you attain job satisfaction in our job? Baba gave this simple practice. In the first step we must attain the unity of our thoughts, words and deeds. This unity is called penance. This will lead to efficient execution of the job. This efficiency in the third stage will lead to Equanimity. In the state of Equanimity the job will have Universal acceptance.

In the above three steps Baba explained us how to proceed with a given task, the various steps involved in the execution of the given task, and the goal that can be attained for our assigned task. The state of Equanimity is beyond the reach of all limitations.

When we speak of ‘Duty’, it is related to ‘Righteousness’. We all must practice Righteousness. Only upon practice of our duty, we will realize the latent truths involved in our duty.

On one occasion, Bhagawan Baba explained the five states of Knowledge. In the first state it is the Bookish knowledge. In the second state it is called Incomplete Knowledge. In the third state it is called the General knowledge. In the fourth state it is called discriminate knowledge. In the fifth state it is called the Practical Knowledge. This Practical Knowledge is the Real Knowledge says Baba. From such messages we must learn our locus standee. In this way Baba explained the finite and infinite states of knowledge.

**6). PATIENCE:** When we go to a Shirdi Sai temple, we will find a message “Shraddha and Saburi”, meaning “Love for God and Patience”. The present day man is lacking love for God and good deeds. As he is lacks interest in good things, his patience is declining towards good deeds.

As long as we are patient, we will not accept and face defeat. In our Mission we must never lose patience. In order to improve our patience we must adhere to four qualities. They are 1) Love the Goal, 2) Determination, 3) Steadfastness and 4) Tolerance. We know all these four qualities. But what is our status. Are we supported with these four qualities? Do we lack them? Generally we find lack of co-ordination of these four qualities in men. As a result we are losing our patience quickly.

When we show interest in doing a particular deed, we naturally develop love doing that job. But when we have no interest in a particular job we express difficulty doing that job. So when we take up a job, we must develop love towards that job in order to complete the job in hand. But how are jobs completed? Some jobs are completed quite easily, whereas for some jobs we face difficulties. A lot of hardships arise unexpectedly. We do not expect these hurdles before hand. Under the circumstances the going will be very tough. We may face a variety of problems. These problems can be financial, or we may lack energy to complete the work in hand, or we may lack the resources midway through, or we may lose our health on the way. At this point of time, our determination comes to the fore while facing such problems. With determination we will analyze our efforts and overcome the difficulties. So far so good. But sometimes, even after our determined effort, our hurdles still persist. Under the circumstances we must switch to Tolerance. When the tide is going against us, this tolerance will help us pass through these difficult times. At this point, we may not progress, but we will steady our ship from sinking. When the odds are not in our favor, we must not hurry for our goals. We must wait until the odds turn in our favor. So in this way, when we are assisted with these four attributes we will not fail in achieving our goals.

As long as we lack co-ordination between our thoughts, words and deeds, our patience will be in a finite state i.e. we quickly lose our patience. So it is very important to all of us to achieve this unity. Only with this unity, we can attain Co-ordination of all the four attributes.

This patience is related to Righteousness. In order to lead a Righteousness life, man needs the above four attributes. Man can achieve great things with this co-ordination. In our march from a finite state to an infinite state, we must never lose patience. During the process, we will realize that we are going strong with every effort.

**7). SENSE CONTROL:** God has given man the five Sense Organs and the five Action Organs. How vital and precious are these organs for man? How man is utilizing these vital organs? Is he making proper use of them? The five Sense Organs are enabling man to establish contact with the external world. The five Sense Organs and the Active Organs are fixed in a permanent position in the body of man. With the help of our mind all the Sense Organs and the Action Organs are activated.

We are seeing with our Eyes. We are hearing with our Ears. We smell with our Nose. We taste with our Tongue. We enjoy the touch with our skin. We are doing many acts with our hands. We are moving from one place to another with our legs. We could speak and communicate with others with our vocal cords. With our Reproductive Organs we will give birth to our offspring. With excretory organs we are sending out the waste products generated in our body. In this way all the Sense and the Action Organs are helping man. But why should we exercise control over these Senses?

Our Mind is supposed to control all our Senses. All our Senses work efficiently with the application of our mind. God has created this wonderful Universe at the disposal of man. Man is a finite being and our Lord is an infinite entity, unseen with no form. It is here the game between God

and Man starts. This is a hide and seeks game. As an infinite, formless entity, God is within and around us. We all are supposed to participate in this game. In this game of hide and seeks all those men who seeks God will reap infinite bliss. God has created man as a finite being. As a finite being what is man doing? He is carried away by the finite worldly pleasures. As a finite being man is not making any efforts to get involved in this game. This hide and seeks game of God is very simple. Man must understand this game properly. As long as man is in a finite state and seeks for God in the outside world he is not going to seek God. In order to seek God man must march from a finite state to an infinite state. In this infinite state he can seek the unseen, infinite God within him.

This world (Nature) and our Society creates a lot of opportunities for man to progress from a finite state to an infinite state. But man is getting out of track from this game. God has created this Universe in a most attractive way. Under the circumstances, man with his senses is attracted towards the worldly pleasures. In the process the senses are becoming slaves to the worldly pleasures. As a result we are forgetting and failing to see God. The end result, man is remaining in a finite state, facing all sorts of problems and getting worried in the process.

These worldly pleasures will not give lasting happiness to man. They only serve man with temporary happiness. Even the senses are referred to as 'Maathralu' meaning dose of medicine, i.e., these senses will enable us with temporary joy and happiness. Knowing the limitations of the worldly pressures and our senses, what will happen to man, if he clings on to them? He will buy problems with time. With time, man transforms from youth to old age. At old age there is no use repenting. So what man must do? Man must control his senses and the mind to remain in the main game of seeking God.

Our mind is supposed to execute control over its senses. When the senses are in contact with the eternal object, a lot of thoughts invade the mind. What the mind is supposed to do with these thought processes? The mind is supposed to direct these thoughts to intelligence for discrimination. After discrimination man will prefer good acts." Why man is committing bad deeds knowingly?" asked Arjuna to Lord Krishna. Krishna replied, "When the mind is taken over by its senses, then it will fail in its duty to send the thought process to intelligence for discrimination. Such a mind will become a prey to the senses and knowingly commit sins". Thus man is wasting his precious God given human life for petty worldly pleasures and in the process is devaluing himself in the long run.

For spiritual progress, detachment is the first step prescribed by our elders. There is a close relation between detachment and sense control. Only with detachment our senses will be easily controlled.

In our body, our mind is located on the top position. Above the mind is located our intelligence and above our intelligence is located our Soul. This knowledge is taught to us by our elders. Because of these positions our mind is within the reach of our intelligence, rather than our Soul. Our intelligence is within the reach of our Soul. Hence it is said that our intelligence will exercise complete control over our senses. In this context, when our mind, as its duty is constantly in contact with our intelligence, then even our mind will slowly grasp the infinite truths of our Soul. Such a mind will reflect the Soul in it. When such a mind had realized self knowledge, then the control is very easily achieved.

Our mind energizes all the senses as it flow through them. Our body is made up of five elements. Similarly the Divinity which exists as the Formless attributes is flowing through the five elements and energizing them. In this context man must understand that our body which is made

up of five elements is energized by Divinity. That is the Soul Power. This Soul Power is the real source for our mind power. Man is able to realize only the mind power which is comprised of five senses and unable to realize the soul power which is beyond the reach of the five senses.

God's game of hide and seek is mainly linked with our senses. So in order to participate and win in this game to finally seek God, it is mandatory to control our senses. When man attains Self Realization he will not only realize his own Self, but also realizes the same Self existing in all humanity. Thus when Self Realization is attained, Sense control can be easily attained, says Baba.

**8).DISCIPLINE:** Man always expects good returns for his actions. They wish that they must not be fooled by anybody. They expect that they suffer no losses for their efforts. So when man thinks in these lines and expects good returns, what is the way? He must habituate to discipline. "Irrespective of a person, place, time and deed, when we expect good returns for our deeds, we must practice discipline", says Baba.

We play a game, following some rules. When we break these rules, we are punished for the offences. In the same way, God's game of hide and seek must be followed with discipline. This discipline is a must for one and all. But discipline in the beginning is felt as a burden, says Baba. Owing to this reason, man must not evade discipline. He must get habituate to discipline. When we realize the importance of discipline, then it is no more felt as a burden, says Baba. Under the circumstance we must practice discipline until it becomes a core of our life. Only with discipline our progress will be steadied. When we are disciplined to the core, we will progress from a finite state to an infinite state.

A disciplined effort by itself reaps a lot of bliss during execution, says Baba. But man is of the opinion that the fruits of actions will be obtained in the end as end result. This is not true. From these two statements man must get habituate to discipline and attain bliss at the time of executing the deeds.

This discipline belongs to Righteousness, which is meant for practice. This discipline will improve only with the unity of thoughts, words and deeds. As long as man lacks this unity, he will not achieve the desired results with his behavior.

With discipline man can easily achieve unity of thought, word and deed. These are the rules framed by God for man's progress. Only those who follow discipline can understand God's love towards humanity.

**9). PERSEVERANCE:** Man is of the opinion that he is completing his tasks by the application of his body and the mind. As long as man thinks in this way, he will limit himself in a finite state. Then what is the way for him to progress to an infinite state? Man must break the shackles of his ego. As long as ego exists in man, he feels that he is doing all his acts on his own. Hence man must shed his ego to become an instrument in the Divine Hands. When man becomes a tool in His Hands, he will experience a lot of bliss in his deeds. For the onlookers, these deeds may appear very simple but the real truth is that they will enjoy everlasting bliss.

How can man avoid his ego and become a tool in the Divine Hands? Once, Baba had a dialogue with a college student.

Baba: Man is of the opinion that he is doing all his deeds by himself. What will happen if he stops breathing for some time?

Student: If man fails to breathe for some time, then he will die.

Baba: The Physical Heart of man is always in a working condition. What will happen if it stops functioning for some time?

Student: If the heart stops beating, then man will die.

Baba: Every day man is partaking food to sustain his life. What will happen if the food so consumed is not digested?

Student: When the partaken food is not digested, then man will die with ill health.

Baba: Who is conducting the breathing process in man? Is it man or God? Who is responsible for the working of the physical heart in man? Is it man or God? Who is digesting the partaken food in man? Is it man or God?

Student: It is God who is taking care of the breathing process in man. It is God who is responsible for the heart beat in man. And it is God again who is digesting the consumed food.

Baba: When God is mainly responsible for all such vital functions of the human body, then where is the need for man to express his ego while executing his tasks?

From the above incident, man must realize his limitations and shed his ego. As long as ego exists in man, the efforts of man will yield limited and temporary benefits. But when he puts aside his ego and becomes a tool in the Divine Hands, then for the acts undertaken, he will reap infinite benefits.

**10). SATISFACTION:** God blesses man with Peace. This Peace is an infinite entity. It remains as an everlasting experience, says Baba. This means Peace is an Eternal commodity gifted to man by God. Man experiences this Peace deep within. Peace is not obtained from the outside world. Not realizing this simple truth man is making many amends to achieve Peace from the outside world and failing miserably. What can be the reason for it? Man is never satisfied with the benefits he reaps from this external world. Without being satisfied, how is it possible for him to attain Peace? Not possible. All great men advise man in this direction. Hence man must seek the inward path to attain Peace.

What is Inward Path? It is very simple. Man must pose 3 questions before undertaking an action. What are these 3 queries? 1) What is good and what is bad? 2) What is temporary and what is permanent? 3) What is Truth and what is untruth? With such introspection when we respond to our tasks then we will reap everlasting satisfaction. In our daily usage, in Telugu, we use two terms related to satisfaction. They are 'Trupthi' and 'Santrupthi'. Here Trupthi means temporary satisfaction and Santrupthi means everlasting satisfaction. The spiritual seekers will realize the meanings of these two terms. For the non seekers both these terms mean the same meaning. And coming to the English language, we have only one term 'Satisfaction'. This term fails to convey the two meanings. So it is necessary to differentiate them. 'Trupthi' can be referred to as 'Satisfaction' and 'Santrupthi' can be referred to as 'Everlasting Satisfaction'.

Now we shall try to learn the difference between satisfaction and everlasting satisfaction. We have served a beggar with love who is very hungry. After taking the food, the beggar will leave the place with satisfaction. By the next day, this beggar will be hungry again. This means satisfaction is a temporary process. But the satisfaction that we have served a hungry beggar with love will last forever.

Based on the above situation what can we infer? Man must not spend his time and energies to serve his personal needs. As long as man is limited to his personal needs, he will reap only temporary satisfaction. Nowadays man is getting limited to serve his personal needs only. This is not proper. We must conserve and spend our time, energy, resources and money for the well being of others to reap everlasting satisfaction. Human birth is very precious. We must make our lives more meaningful, eventful and blissful by not limiting to ourselves but instead sharing them with others with love.

Man must get habituated to Inward Path. God has blessed man with 18 Divine attributes. As long as man leads a limited worldly life, man enjoys only temporary satisfaction. And when man breaks these limitations and lives for the well being of the Society, then all these 18 Divine attributes will flourish into infinite proportions, resulting in everlasting satisfaction.

As long as man remains ignorant of his Self, he will lead a limited worldly life. With Self Knowledge, man loves his own Self. He sees his own Self in others too. When he sees his own Self in others, he will convey his true love for others in the Society. So it is mandatory for man to gain Self Knowledge to attain everlasting satisfaction.

**11). ALWAYS BE CHEERFUL:** We all are embodiments of the Divine Love. The nature of our Soul is bliss. So man is supposed to stay in bliss. We will not go to a person who is experiencing bliss and ask “Why are you in bliss”? But when a person is sad, we will go to him and ask, “Why are you sad”?

Among us who is cheerful? The logic is very simple. All those Souls who have realized their Self will be always cheerful. Why? They always want to enjoy this blissful, cheerful state. They are not tempted by the worldly attractions and temptations. Using discrimination they are selective in their deeds. They perform acts which yield everlasting happiness and bliss. They not only do their duty but also help others. They do selfless service and never express their ego. They utilize all their resources in an optimum way. They express sacrifice attitude. They see their own self in their fellow beings. They travel from a finite ‘I’ to an infinite ‘we’. How is their Self within? It is free from the six sins of the mind. The mind is enriched with the six virtues. The speed, the instability and the fleeting nature of the mind is controlled and the mind power is manifested. And coming to the heart, bad habits are replaced by good habits. The five human values keep the heart in a blissful condition. With the practice of human values, the 18 Divine attributes flourish into infinite proportions. Thus the mind is pure and the heart broad. Such a mind and a heart will develop intense love for God and want to remain in the Divine Company.

**12). EQUANIMITY:** This physical world is filled with dualities. Without these dualities man cannot aspire for his progress. Without these dualities, a mother will not love her child, says Baba.

Without realizing pain we cannot experience pleasure. Without taking rest during night, we cannot realize the utility value of the day. In a business, without tasting loss we cannot enjoy the profits involved. While playing games, without suffering defeats, how can we enjoy winning them. Even though, at the outset, man is familiar with these dualities, he always desires and

favors only one of the two dualities and expresses his dislike for the other duality. But these dualities will follow each other without fail. Night follow a day. Pain follows a pleasure.

All those who start business invest large amounts with an aim to gain profits. But there is no guarantee that they will never incur losses. When the going is not good, or when he is careless in his business, he cannot avoid losses. So, all business men must be well aware of the pros and cons of the business. Only then they can go beyond the dualities. Man can never forecast the future events. Every day the world is updated with the latest technology.

This changing world paves way for many day to day changes. Owing to these changes, a business which was flourishing till yesterday, may find its doomsday now. A person who lived like a king till yesterday may turn a pauper tomorrow. So man must execute constant vigil over the dualities and make efforts to overcome them. We cannot avoid day and night. This is not in our hands. We must have the knowledge of both the day and night to face them. We must gain lessons from our defeats only. When we analyze our losses we will realize our lapses. When we overcome our lapses we will put up a better performance.

In the eyes of God, in reality, there is no gain-loss situation in any game, says Baba. All those who participate in the hide and seeks game of God will be winners, says Baba. This means, all those who face this world, must accept both the dualities in their stride, realize their lapses, overcome them and march ahead to attain progress. In this way, everybody who participated in the game will be a winner.

In this world, men are born with different interests and energies. They achieve efficiency in their respective fields. They convert their efficiency further into Equanimity, which have Universal application. In this way man gains lot knowledge about the dualities of life. He gains courage to accept both the dualities of life. He later overcomes lapses and goes beyond the dualities to gain lasting peace within.

Until so far we have learned about 12 Divine attributes. It is very important to revise the proceedings so far before continuing with the remaining six Divine attributes.

We must ALWAYS 'FOLLOW TRUTH'. We must ALWAYS 'PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS'. We must ALWAYS 'EXPERIENCE PEACE'. We must ALWAYS 'SHARE LOVE AND NON-VIOLENCE WITH OTHERS'.

**ALWAYS FOLLOW TRUTH:** When we always follow Truth we will get rid of all our fears. When we follow Truth, we will muster courage in all our deeds. When we realize the truth that we all are children of the same God, we will express more humility towards our fellow beings. When we realize the truth that the worldly pleasures are responsible for our dualities, then we will develop detachment to overcome them. In this way, by just following truth these four Divine attributes in us will flourish into infinite proportions.

**FOLLOWING TRUTH, PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS:** Following Truth, we must practice Righteousness. By practicing Righteousness we must attain the unity of our thoughts, words and actions. With this Unity, the five Divine attributes like Duty, Discipline, Patience, Sense Control and Perseverance will become a part of our lives and grow into infinite proportions.

**FOLLOWING TRUTH THOSE WHO PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL EXPERIENCE PEACE:** When man follows Truth and practices Righteousness God blesses him

with Peace, says Baba. Peace is an eternal entity and once experienced will never evade man, says Baba. This Peace is comprised of 3 Divine attributes namely Everlasting Satisfaction, Always Be Cheerful and to enjoy Equanimity towards dualities of life. In this learning process, here we have realized the difference between satisfaction and everlasting satisfaction. And coming to the dualities we have learned that all those who are in the finite state will fear one of the dualities, and those in the infinite state will accept both the dualities with equipoise, learn lessons from them and go beyond the dualities to enjoy lasting peace within.

**FOLLOWING TRUTH, THOSE WHO PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL ATTAIN PEACE. THIS PEACE WILL OVERFLOW AS LOVE AND NON-VIOLENCE TOWARDS HUMANITY:** See the association between the five human values. All those who attain this eternal peace will not remain silent. They want to share this peace with others around. The Peace within will flow out as Love. Both Love and Non-Violence will overflow from Peace within to the humanity around. So how this Love and Non-Violence are shared with the humanity around? Love overflows in the form of four Divine attributes. They are Kindness, Forgiveness, Service and Sacrifice. Non-Violence overflows in the form of two Divine attributes namely, Compassion and Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man.

In order to understand the six Divine attributes of Love and Non-Violence let us gain some ground. All these six Divine attributes involves Sharing the Knowledge, Resources, Time, Energy and Money with others. To whom we must share our resources? We must feed only those who are hungry. We must distribute clothes to only those who have no proper clothes to wear. He who is suffering with ill health must be provided medical attention. He who has interest in education, but cannot pursue them owing to poverty, must be supported financially. And there will be men who have enough riches but lack peace of mind. They must be enlightened with the path of Peace.

How these charity acts are to be performed? Bhagawan Baba has told a story. This story reveals the latent lapses involved in Charity. There lives a man by name Ramaiah in a village. He is well learned. He travelled all over the globe and amassed a lot of wealth. But he had no Peace. He went to a preceptor, who realized Ramaiah's state and advised him thus. "You have all the while performed addition and multiplication well. Now it is time for you to apply division". Ramaiah could not understand the preceptor's message. Then the preceptor clarified thus, "All these years you have amassed a lot of wealth. Now it is time to share your wealth with those who are in need of it. Come again after one year". Ramaiah practiced his preceptor's advice. He performed a lot of charity acts, but still could not attain peace of mind. So he met his preceptor again after one year and told that he still lacks peace of mind. The preceptor advised Ramaiah thus. "You have applied addition, multiplication and division well in your life. Now it is time for you to apply the remaining 'subtraction' in your life". Ramaiah was again puzzled with his preceptor's advice. The preceptor clarified thus. "In the last one year, you have performed many charity acts. But all the while you have performed these acts with a ego tag, 'I am doing'. Now you subtract the ego tag and continue the charity acts and come after one year". There after Ramaiah continued acts of charity without any ego feelings. Ramaiah gained peace of mind and infinite bliss for his charity acts and never felt the need to meet his preceptor again.

Lord showers a lot of love on humanity. There is another story which expresses this infinite love of God over humanity. On one occasion the demons, the humans and the angels went to Lord Siva and prayed for liberation. For the demons, Siva replied 'Kindness'. For the humans, Siva replied 'Righteousness'. And to the angels, Siva replied 'Sense Control'. The story in a simplified version ends here.

From the above story man can learn a lot of truths. Man leads his life with Tamasik, Rajasik and Sathwek tendencies. Based on these three attitudes, we have four types of men in our Society. They are categorized into Animal, Demonic, Human and Divine qualities. Men with animal qualities with their ignorance will commit many lapses. These lapses must be corrected. A few good Samaritans will come forward to help their cause. But these men with animal tendencies are very selfish and lead a limited life. They will cause harm to those who help them. They never aim for the well being of others. And coming to the demonic qualities, they have a lot of desires. They are selfish. They are not ignorant. They know what is good and what is bad. But with selfishness they are ready to commit many heinous crimes. These demonic men envy and hate others. As a result, they cause all sorts of troubles to others around. They enjoy others sufferings. Not only that they will pray for others doom. And coming to human behavior they desire to see God and practice the five human values. They never cause harm to others. They contribute their bit for the well being of the Society. Now let's go back to the above story and observe the boons offered to demons, humans and angels by Lord Siva for liberation. Lord Siva advised Siva to practice 'Righteousness' to achieve liberation. Siva advised demons to practice 'Kindness' to achieve liberation. Siva advised angels to practice 'Sense Control' to attain liberation. How precise is God's teaching! Men with ignorance must practice Righteousness. Men with demonic qualities need Kindness and angels need Sense Control. Lord Siva prescribed a different path for each attitude. If only they change their attitude from bad to good, all will attain the same liberation. Even though everybody is on a different path, in the eyes of God, everybody is very close to God. Righteousness, Kindness and Sense Control are all infinite Divine attributes. Realize the importance of these Divine attributes.

Man not realizing the efficiency of these Divine attributes is running after finite rituals to attain liberation. Man must come out of these limitations. Man is giving a form to the God and is being limited to this form. He is getting more attached to this form. In the name of devotion he is practicing various rituals. All these spiritual rituals have limited scope for spiritual progress of man. With these finite spiritual rituals, we may spend a lot of time but the progress achieved is very less. Man is not realizing these facts. In this context, we must recollect how Swami Vivekananda has guided the humanity. He told that the rituals like pooja, japams, archanas and meditations in a collective form cannot surpass Service to humanity. When Vivekananda made this revolutionary statement, even his own men could not bear this statement and opposed him. But Swami Vivekananda is a master with infinite knowledge. How can men, with finite knowledge withstand Vivekananda's Intelligence? After some time they were convinced of the truth. Service to humanity is one of the 18 Divine attributes, related to human value LOVE.

Today man must come out of Devotion and enter into the arena of spirituality. Spirituality has six pre-requisites, and Devotion is one among them. The six pre-requisites are good behavior, intelligence, always follow truth, discipline, devotion and duty. But today's man is not differentiating devotion and spirituality. They feel that both are same. Until man realizes the difference, he will be limited to devotion.

At this juncture everyone must know the meaning of two terms. They are Vyasti Saadhana (Individual effort) and Samisti Saadhana (Collective effort). In the Individual effort only one individual is involved. In the Collective effort a lot of men are involved. Lord favors a collective effort rather than an individual effort. In the medium of Devotional Bhajans (Devotional Songs), Satsanghs (Good Company) and the Fire rituals are favored by God. Thus man must develop interest towards the collective efforts rather than the individual efforts.

Why man is opting to Devotion? To quench his desires. Man is doing business with God. This is not proper. As long as man aims for personal benefits through devotion means, he is not spiritually benefitted.

Today's man lacks spiritual knowledge. Lacking spiritual knowledge, he is going to a temple and worshipping the idol. And after coming out of the temple, he is expressing hatred and anger over human beings. This is not spirituality, warns Baba.

Many incarnations and spiritual giants have come into our midst. They all guided man with the six pre-requisites of spirituality. But most of the spiritual leaders of today are guiding humanity only in the medium of devotion. In this way, their approach is not complete. At the present times, I feel that only Sathya Sai Service Organizations and Ramakrishna Mission are guiding men spiritually. Bhagawan Baba in this context has emphasized that Sri Sathya Sai Service Organizations is a Spiritual Organization and not just a Service organization.

I am of the view that the present day spiritual leaders of all over the globe have not understood or experienced the Formless attributes of the Lord. If only they have experienced the Formless attributes of the Lord, we would have seen many Swami Vivekanandas from the religious mediums. If only the religious men all over the globe experience the Formless attributes of the Lord, all the world religions would have been united to form one single religion by now.

God's game of hide and seek had a wide range of encapsulated truths. Most of the truths are still not realized. And the revealed truths are experienced by very few spiritual masters all over the globe. Their numbers must increase. We all must march from 'I' to 'We' to attain this oneness. Only when their numbers increase, the proposal of this single religion will become an unanimous affair.

Let us go back into the Divine game and draw some more conclusions. Why God created this Universe? God in order to Love himself, has created this universe. On the entire universe, human birth is the most auspicious creation of God. God blessed man with intelligence and spiritual heart. With intelligence man will discriminate things. And the spiritual heart enables man to experience the Infinite Formless attributes of the Lord. "Every object, living and non living, with time will perish one day. And all living beings are subjected to changes, with time. Owing to these two reasons man is developing love towards worldly objects. If the living objects are not subjected to death and changes, then man cannot love his fellow beings", says Bhagawan Baba. So from the above message, we can infer that God's Master Plan is enabling man to love the worldly objects around him. But what is the aim of God? God desires man to love God. But, as a part of the game, man is attracted by the Worldly pleasures and hence is in love with them. Owing to death and changes, man immediately after his birth is in love with the objects around. This means God has finished a part of the work for man. What is the other part of work left for man? He must detach from the worldly pleasures and love God. God is expecting selfless Love from man. Divinity is an infinite entity. In order for man to achieve spiritual progress, it is possible only with the 18 Divine attributes. These 18 divine attributes will raise man from a finite state to an infinite state. Along with the five Human values, the six pre requisites of spirituality will help man for an easy spiritual progress.

From the above stories, incidents and messages, an attempt is made to highlight the Divine attributes. It is very easy to practice the Divine attributes. These 18 Divine attributes of man will enable him to be in tune with the Lord forever.

**13). KINDNESS:** With Kindness we share with others what we have in abundance. In the acts of kindness we observe two entities. They are ‘The Giver’ and ‘The Receiver’. Both of them will be happy sharing the resources. We hear a slogan in our land. It states, ‘Dhanam moolam idam jagat’, meaning that this world is after money. But Baba corrected it by saying ‘Dhaya moolam idam jagat’, meaning that this world is meant to express kindness. Today’s man is running after money. When he will realize this lapse? When man will show his kindness to the Society? In this context, we must realize the most important slogan ‘Dayagala Hridayamae Daiva Mandiram’ meaning a compassionate heart is the temple of God.

Kindness does not limit to serve others needs with love. Kindness also means, we must safeguard the interests of others. We must never hurt others or cause difficulties to them. Recollecting the Siva’s boon to the demons, we must realize how this kindness will bring about transformation of demons into good human beings.

We can adopt various acts of kindness with love. We can serve food to those who are hungry. We must distribute to those who have no proper clothes to wear. We must provide medical aid to the patients. Those who lack peace of mind must be enlightened with spiritual guidance. When we conduct these acts with love and selflessness we attain bliss. But nowadays we see these acts being performed for the sake of name and fame. Such acts will spoil the cream of kindness as the benefits reach wrong ends.

Everyone must properly understand these Divine attributes properly. They are infinite attributes. Such attributes must be handled only with love and kindness. Such acts of kindness must be implemented with higher goals. They must be implemented in a noble way. But if these Divine attributes are attempted with selfish purposes like achieving name, fame and glory, then they will not give positive results in the end.

**14). FORGIVENESS:** We have in our Society, four categories of men moving along with us. Men with animal and demonic tendencies will cause many hardships to the fellow beings around. Men with animal tendencies are committing these lapses in ignorance. Hence they must be forgiven. But we find men with demonic qualities. They are not ignorant. They deliberately harm us and cause our downfall. Lord Rama, through his Ramayana advises that such men with demonic qualities must never be forgiven. On the other hand we must face the demons boldly with courage. If we let lose the demons as an act of forgiveness then such an act will be act of cowardice. We need not fear the demons. Only men with animal tendencies will fear these demons. Men with human and divine qualities will have no fears against the demons, says Baba.

In our Society, we see many individuals who in the beginning, opted a wrong path with ignorance, and later made a sincere bid to transform into good individuals. We all must encourage such individuals with forgiveness. We must at no stage remind them their past bad behavior and hurt them.

We are forgiving our family members and friends when they commit mistakes. We are making a lot of adjustments in our behavior in order to promote harmony with others. All humans are children of the same God. All are the embodiments of the Divine Soul. But they have different attitudes. He who sees God in all loves all. He who loves all, must learn to love his own self. How can he love others? Man all through his life is running after worldly pleasures and is failing miserably to make any attempts to love his own Self, warns Baba. He, who realizes his own Self, will be in a position to forgive other human beings readily.

In fact it is Time and God who can make a judgment of good and bad. Man cannot make this discrimination. In this context, when man commits an error he must claim excuse from God. Man is not supposed to claim excuse from another fellow being. So in this regard, man must not try to find faults with others and try to exercise pardon over other fellow beings.

When we take up an activity for a good cause to the society, we make a collective effort. But the involvement differs from each participant. They express different ideas and opinions in the execution of the given task. We receive various degrees of co-operation from them. But until the goal is reached, we must enable the task to completion. In this multi complex web, it is this forgiveness which guides us through the task to completion.

**15. SERVICE:** Even though God has blessed man with the 18 divine attributes, this service has some special features in it. It takes man to God's close proximity. In Ramayana we see many such examples. They are Hanuman, Guha, Jataayu, Sabari, Sugreeva, Vibhishana, vaanaras, squirrel, etc.

During Rama's time, Rama used his physical body to kill all the demons. During that time all these men & women have served Rama physically. In the Dwaapara era, Lord Krishna using his words had demolished the demons. Not only that Lord Krishna taught 'Bhagawad gita' to the humanity, which enlighten man with the much needed infinite knowledge to lead a meaningful, eventful and blissful life. With this knowledge man can achieve spiritual progress. But in the present kali era, God has taken the form of Shiridi Sai and Sathya Sai and with their mind i.e., formless attributes are transforming men with animal and demonic tendencies into good human beings. In this context how man can serve God and get close to His proximity?

God expects selfless love from man. Those who convey this love to God, will follow God. Following God it is very easy to follow the nine steps to Devotion. These nine steps are 1) To Hear about God -> 2) To Speak about God -> 3) To Contemplate upon God -> 4) To Follow the Footsteps of God (Paada Sevanam) -> 5) Salutations to God -> 6) To Adore God -> 7) To Serve God -> To make Friendship with God -> 9) To Surrender to God. Baba explained these devotional steps for spiritual progress. This means we can attain the goal with nine steps. Of these nine steps, the 7<sup>th</sup> step is Service. To whom we are doing Service? Service to God. Where is God? All are embodiments of the Divine Soul. God resides in the hearts of all. In this context, Service to man is Service to God. The eighth step is friendship with God. During friendship with God, man will become more familiar with the Formless attributes of the Lord. Experiencing God's infinite Divine attributes man feels that it is better to surrender at His Lotus feet. Thus in the ninth step man surrenders to God. At the time of surrender, man pray God to make him His tool. All those who want to serve God with love will gain to become God's tool. Thus this attitude of Service to God will bring out the best from an individual.

**16.SACRIFICE:** "Where there is Sacrifice, there will be Glory", says Baba. "The first message of God to humanity is Sacrifice", says Baba. In God's creation, all living beings are habituated to Sacrifice. But with his selfishness man is not practicing Sacrifice. But God has not exempted man from avoiding Sacrifice. So man must slowly incline to a sacrificial mode of living leaving behind his selfish tendencies.

In the God's creation, this sacrifice plays a vital role. In the daily routine of man, this sacrifice has become a part of his life. Man breathes fresh air and exhales carbon dioxide. Man intakes food. Food is converted into energy. All the fecal matter is thrown out as waste. If these two operations do not take place in a human body, man cannot survive.

We commonly hear of the three terms 'Prakruthi, Vikruthi and Samskruthi'. Prakruthi means Nature (natural). Vikruthi means unnatural. Samskruthi means Culture (refined). When we are born, we are in a natural state i.e. Prakruthi. Into this natural state when we add bad behavior we will turn into Vikruthi i.e. unnatural state. From the original natural state, when we add more good qualities and sacrifice the bad qualities then we will be cultured. Our journey is in our hands. Using the God given intelligence man must make amends towards cultured state.

In our daily life, man is ignorant of many Divine aspects. They remain a mystery to man. Rama through his Ramayana has delivered a wonderful message related to Sacrifice. Man must be benefitted from this wonderful message. "The fruits and the bliss related to Action, Birth and Righteousness may not be immediately realized by man but the fruits of Sacrifice will be delivered very soon".

When the odds are not in favour of man, he thinks that he is running a bad period. Under the circumstances it is advised that the impact of the so called bad period is nullified by Sacrifice.

**17). COMPASSION:** In the acts of Kindness we see the two entities i.e. 'The Giver' and 'The Recipient'. But in the acts of Compassion both these two entities become one i.e. "The Giver is God and the Recipient is God". While executing acts of kindness we may follow certain limitations or norms but while executing the acts of compassion they are beyond all limitations.

In the state of Compassion, Ego has no place. God's Compassion knew no bounds. God with his Compassion serves as an idol for the entire humanity.

Let us observe the infinite Compassion of Bhagawan Baba showered on the humanity. Baba started the educational institutions and gave free education from LKG to PG. Baba constructed Super Speciality Hospitals and providing free health care through them. Baba served portable drinking water to five districts in Andhra Pradesh and also to Chennai City in Tamilnadu. Baba has provided drinking water to 212 tribal villages in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The water pipelines in these 212 villages passed through dense forests and high mountain ranges. To provide drinking water in such an area to serve the tribals, can be compared as one of the few wonders of the world. Thus Baba showed us the path of Compassion.

**18) FATHERHOOD OF GOD AND BROTHERHOOD OF MAN:** Bhagawan Baba through His Sathya Sai Vahini conveyed a lot of daily life practical messages. Baba stated that Hindus adore God in both Form and Formless attributes. He referred to adoring God with a Form as learning alphabets in Spirituality. After learning the alphabets, they will master the language. In the same way after adoring God with a Form, they must raise their spirituality to experience the Formless attributes of the Lord. But what is the status of man today? He adores God with a Form. He is not switching to Formless attributes of the Lord. Adoring God with a Form is a finite state of spirituality. How long will man remain in this finite state? He must make progress to adoring God in Formless state.

All those who adore God with a form can be compared to frogs in a well. All are getting limited to alphabets. Without learning the alphabets they are crying that their language is the best language. Every language is in an infinite state. Those who experience this infinite state will not make such a statement.

Another important issue in spirituality, which everyone must take note of is, they must realize the difference between Devotion and Spirituality. Devotion is one of the six pre-

requisites. Nowadays people are just limiting themselves to devotion. This is not proper. They must adapt to Spirituality. With this Spirituality man can progress man from a finite state to an infinite state.

What are the Formless attributes of our Lord? Let us recollect them again. They are Omnipresence, Omnipotence, Omniscience, Omnifarious, He is beyond the five elements, He has no birth and death, He has no hunger and thirst, He has infinite number of good qualities, He is an Eternal Witness, He is beyond Time and controls Time, He is Pure, He is Unsullied, He is Peace Giver, He can attain any Form, etc. With all these Formless attributes, the humanity must realize that there is only one God for everyone. Those who experience the Formless attributes of the Lord will realize this truth. The rest will fail to understand this infinite phenomenon, as they remain in a finite state. When they are in the limited finite state, how can they realize the infinite state of God? Not possible. Hence most of the religious leaders all through the globe are still limiting to the final state. For the present day world, Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai have manifested countless incidents of their Formless attributes during their incarnation period. People from all countries (corners of the globe) have visited Baba. Why? They have accepted Sathya Sai as their Lord. In this way, Sathya Sai enjoyed the status of 'Fatherhood of God'.

As long as man is in the finite state, he will get limited to a particular religion. When he progresses from a finite state to an infinite state he will be experiencing the infinite Formless attributes of the Lord. In this infinite state, he will break all limitations and bonds. He is no more confined to the four walls of the well. He will come out of the well and see the entire universe outside the well. Outside this well he will claim that there is only one God and realize that we are all the children of the same God. Such men will express 'Brotherhood of Man'.

All the while, so far, we have glanced through the finite and the infinite states of the 18 divine attributes.

In the beginning of the book, I have explained 14 attributes of our formless God. While narrating those attributes I have just made a mention of another attribute that God can manifest any form, any time (swayambhu thathwam ), but not elaborated it. After narrating the formless attributes of the Lord, I continued the narration of the 18 divine attributes. But I gained a lot of ground on this 'swayambhu thathwam' and felt the need to narrate it here.

**15. GOD CAN MANIFEST IN ANY FORM:** This is very important formless attribute of God. Generally man relishes the form of God. Being in the finite state, a man will not relish the Formless God. The very concept of God with no form will cause restlessness in his mind. He therefore sticks to the form and hence remains in the finite state for a long interval of time.

God can manifest in any form at any time. Not just one form, but He can manifest Himself in any number of forms. This attribute can serve as solace to the finite man. This attribute can help man to broaden his heart to accept the Formless God. We have various incidents in which God manifested in various forms to help His devotees. Let us see a few such instances.

In Andhra Pradesh Sri Akkerala Bharadwaja has spread the devotion of Shirdi Sai. He experienced the Formless attributes of Shirdi Sai. On one occasion Bharadwaja has learned that on the Dassera day, Shirdi Sai will move around in Shirdi in a physical form even after leaving His physical body. Learning this, Bharadwaja went to Shirdi on a particular Dassera Occasion. On the day of Dassera, Bharadwaja was on a lookout for Shirdi Sai, in His physical form. He had not seen Shirdi Sai in his physical form on that day until 1PM. He felt very sleepy and slept for one hour. He

woke up from his sleep at 2PM. Bharadwaj went to a house for alms. The lady of the house came up with food (alms) and upon seeing Bharadwaj has said, “just now, a few minutes back, I served alms to you. Why are you back again?” Bharadwaja was perplexed with those words. But he immediately realized the situation and had the answer for himself. Since morning Bharadwaja was anxiously waiting to see Shirdi Sai in physical form. At 1.00 pm he went into sleep. As he was in sleep, Shirdi Sai manifested the form of Bharadwaja and took alms from the lady. Realizing this truth, Bharadwaja went into Ecstasy.

We have seen a good number of such manifestations during Sathya Sai Incarnation. Let us learn a few such incidents. John Hislop is an American devotee of Baba. He wrote a book ‘Conversations with Baba’. In this book, he presented two incidents of Baba’s manifestations.

For the purpose of this book, Baba gave a number of interviews to Hislop. During this time, Baba went to His devotee’s house without prior intimation. Hislop was with Baba. For this unexpected visit, the hosts were very much surprised and felt very happy. Very soon, they were worried as there were no snacks in the house to serve Baba. Realizing the plight of the hosts, Baba called Hislop and told him, “Go to the car and bring the sweet packets from the car”. Hislop knew that there were no sweet packets in the car. But following Baba’s instructions Hislop walked towards the car. As he was walking towards Baba’s car, he saw a couple of angels standing at the car with sweet packets in their hands. They handed over the sweet packets to Hislop. Hislop returned back and handed over the sweet packets to the hosts. Hislop realized how God manifests in various forms to help His devotees.

During this period, Baba called for another interview. During these interviews Hislop was accompanied by four or five American devotees. On this particular day, the interview continued for more than two hours and the topic of discussion is related to ‘God’s Manifestations’. At the end of the interview, Baba told an American devotee who accompanied Hislop thus, “One hour back, your wife met with an accident. I went and saved your wife in the form of an old man. I admitted her in the Hospital. Nothing to worry. She is OK”. But where is Baba all the while? He had not left the interview room for the last two and half hours. Without a gap Baba was answering all the queries. At the end of the interview Baba told him about the accident. So the topic that was discussed in the interview room was ‘Theory’ and the accident which took place during the midway of the interview was the ‘Practical’. In order to confirm Baba’s words, this American devotee called his wife in the Hospital and heard the same news back.

Hislop had another experience relating to God’s manifestation. Once, Hislop was travelling from Bengaluru to Puttaparthi in a car. On the way the car had a mechanical breakdown. The car driver tried his best but the car was not repaired. An hour passed. After one hour Hislop prayed Baba for help. Within a few moments, a lorry going that way stopped at the car. The lorry driver came to the car, repaired the car and went away. Hislop reached Puttaparthi. On that evening Baba called him for an interview and asked him about the journey details. Hislop told Baba about the car repair and added that due to this breakdown his arrival to Puttaparthi was delayed by one hour. Baba then added, “When your car was broke down, I was ready to help you, but you have not called me for one hour. After one hour when you called me for help, I responded immediately as a lorry driver and repaired your car”.

Man must never forget God. Man may forget God, but God will never forget man even for a moment. He will be ever ready to help man. He is responding and helping man in so many forms and ways, but man is not realizing the Divine help received on most of the occasions. They

think that they have received help in a normal routine. Man not being aware of the formless attributes of the God remains unaware of the Divine help he received for his prayers. God is acknowledging His devotees prayers but the devotees are not in a position to acknowledge the Divine help. Being limited to a form, and in this finite limited form, man is unable to realize the infinite Divine potentialities. So where should we move? From a finite state to an infinite state.

We have another very interesting incident of Divine manifestation to help a devotee's cause. Vivek Sahu is a student of Baba's college. Vivek attained a lot of spiritual progress in the Divine presence. While moving with the students, Baba asked Vivek Sahu for his name for which he replied 'Vivek Sahu'. Baba replied, 'Vivekananda Swami?' and moved ahead. Vivek Sahu thought that Baba might not have heard his name properly. On the next day, while moving with the students, Baba again asked the name of Vivek Sahu. Vivek again replied his name as 'Vivek Sahu'. To this Baba again asked him, 'Vivekananda Swami'? To this vivek immediately responded, "Baba if you wish so I can become Vivekananda Swami". Baba replied "If I wish you can go beyond Vivekananda Swami". After completing his education in Baba's college, Vivek Sahu asked Baba for His guidance regarding his future career. Baba told Vivek to go to his parents' place and settle down there with a job. As per Baba's guidance Vivek went to New Delhi and found a job. Along with the job, he has adopted an orphanage for doing service. In this way, time passed further. Vivek Sahu has scheduled a cultural program with the orphans. All arrangements were made and the invitations send. The cultural program is supposed to start on a particular day at 6.00pm. On the day of the cultural program, Vivek Sahu's boss called him and assigning him a special duty, told him, "Today a few important foreign dignitaries are coming to the office. I have selected you to explain them of our ongoing projects of our company to them. They are coming at 6.00 pm today". Hearing this Vivek told his boss about the previously arranged cultural program and requested him that he has to be relieved from the office to conduct the scheduled program. But the Boss was very adamant. He denied Vivek's request. Vivek was in a dilemma. What to do? Should he obey his Boss and stay in the office or go the orphanage and conduct the cultural program as scheduled. Vivek Sahu decided to conduct the cultural program and left to the orphanage. For not obeying his Boss's orders, he has prepared mentally to face the consequences. So the next day Vivek went to his Office and was expecting some harsh words from his Boss. But to his surprise, his Boss was in a happy mood, called Vivek Sahu and told him, 'Yesterday evening you have handled the foreign dignitaries well. They felt very satisfied. Yesterday evening you told me that you have to conduct the cultural program at the Orphanage. But why did you stayed back at the Office for so long after the meeting was over'? Vivek Sahu was perplexed. He realized very soon what had materialized the previous evening at the Office. He was delighted. His bliss knew no bounds. Vivek Sahu revealed this incident to Radio Sai and told that the very thought that God has manifested in his form has made him speechless.

Through Radio Sai, I have heard of another incident of Vivek Sahu. On one occasion the college students are leaving to their parents place during holidays. Vivek could not get his reservation. He purchased a general ticket and approached the TC to know if he had any chance of getting a berth to travel. The TC responded that he will be given a berth provided if he pays some money as bribe to him. Vivek Sahu is against bribing. The TC was an elderly man and Vivek is a student. But Vivek, with courage has conveyed a few tokens of loving advice to the TC. The TC was baffled with Vivek's courage and love for him. He gave a berth to Vivek without collecting the extra amount. So what helped Vivek to get a berth? Vivek expressed the Divine attributes Courage and Love towards the TC that has brought the required transformation in him.

**GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US EVEN FOR A MOMENT:** We may forget God. We may deny God. We may neglect God, but God will never leave us for a moment. Yes. Who will take care of us

every moment? He who loves us will take care of us and not the rest. We have innumerable experiences of Baba which reveal that God will never us even for a moment. God will be with us, in us, and all around us to protect us every moment. This is the trust God imposed on us. I had a number of such personal experiences. I shall reveal a few such experiences.

**1). MY BUS PASS WAS NOT CHECKED:** Around 15 years back, i.e. in 2001, I was in Hyderabad. I have taken a Bus pass to travel in local Buses. I used to renew the Bus pass every month. If I renew the Bus pass on 5<sup>th</sup> of this month, it will be valid till 4<sup>th</sup> of next month. Once as I was travelling in a Bus, the Bus was stopped for tickets checking, after crossing YMCA. The Bus was going towards Koti. The moment the Bus stopped, the checking officers entered the Bus, one from the front end and the other from the rear end. Knowing that the tickets are going to be checked, in a moment I have taken my Bus pass from my pocket and held it in my hand. I was sitting in the centre of the Bus. The Officer who entered the Bus from the front end of the Bus saw me taking out my Bus pass from my pocket. After taking out my Bus pass, I checked my Pass for myself. I realized that the Bus pass was valid till the previous day. I realized my lapse. This lapse occurred without my knowledge. I felt that the Officer will scold me and punish me for my offence. I felt sorry for my ignorance. I immediately switched to chanting God's name. The Bus pass was still in my hand. The Officer who entered the Bus from the front end has checked all the tickets and Bus passes of all the passengers. He has even checked the ticket of my co-passenger. I thought he will check my pass next. But without checking my Bus pass, he got down from the Bus. The Officer who checked the tickets from the rear end has also completed his task and got down from the Bus. Both these Officers have not spared a single passenger. They checked all tickets and passes of all the passengers. But my Bus pass was not checked. How should I infer this? Can I infer this as a chance? No. It is just God's help who is with us every moment.

**2).COME ON, LET'S GO:** Around 3-4 years back (2011-12), I was travelling with my brother-in-law Somi Reddy, on a Scooter and stopped the vehicle at the Lakdi-ka-pool Traffic signal. It was 8.00 pm and there was a lot of traffic at that time. As I stopped the Scooter, the Police Constable who was standing at the Traffic signal post, asked me to show the vehicle record. When there was so much of traffic to control this constable who was all alone, is asking me to show my record. I felt upset over Constable's order. "When there is so much of Traffic, is it necessary for you to check our record at this moment", I replied gently to the Constable. Even my Brother-in-law could hear my remarks to the Constable. I stay in Ravulapalem, and hence my Driving License will be in my vehicle at Ravulapalem. This Constable made light weight of my remarks and showing me an SI on the roadside, asked me to show the record to him. Until then, I have not noticed the SI. This Constable asked us to move towards the SI and started to move along with us. I started chanting God's name as usual. As I started walking towards the SI, the SI has started moving ahead from where he was doing duty all the while. By the time we crossed the road from the traffic signal post, the SI was already 10-15 meters ahead of us. The Constable started calling 'Sir, Sir' loudly directing him towards us. The SI looked back towards the Constable and replied with an angry tone, "Come on, and let's go". With that shout the Constable left us and ran towards SI. Their duty time might have been over, I thought for a moment. But I don't know. In the next few moments there was no SI or the Constable near our vicinity. I acknowledge God's help and started my Scooter again. Really man cannot imagine how God rescues His devotees?

**3). GOD HAS TAKEN CARE OF OUR JOURNEY:** On 7-6-1981, when I was in New Delhi I suffered food poisoning. At that time I was all alone. I suffered 10 vomiting and 10 lose motions one after another. I was admitted into a Hospital. I was put on saline. I had no sleep that night. These vomiting and motions were controlled and I was discharged from the Hospital early morning on 8-6-

1981. At that time I was studying my M Sc at NDRI, Karnal. I have put up my family at Karnal during February, 1981. For the summer vacation I got the train reservation done for AP Express for our couple on 9-6-1981. When I reached Karnal on 8-6-1981, all my friends and my wife were very anxiously waiting for me. I was still very weak. My friends got their reservation done on 12-6-1981. They requested me not to travel on 9-6-1981. They promised me that they will safely drop us at Hyderabad. They cancelled our tickets and freshly booked the tickets on 12-6-1981. Generally, when our final exams schedule is announced we students will book our tickets two months in advance from Karnal. After booking our tickets, we will get the news of our confirmation in 2-3 days time. One of those students, who got his reservation done for 12-6-1981, was not confirmed, even as the journey date was fast approaching. He made another strong plea with the Railway authorities, Karnal for his berth confirmation. For the latest plea, his reservation was confirmed at the nick of time.

For the 12-6-1981 journey, we reached New Delhi from Karnal. The AP Express starts at 7.00 am from New Delhi. My friend Mr. I.V.Rao was checking the reservation chart to find our berth allotments in the train. As we cancelled our tickets and booked again on 8-6-1981, we couple could not get reservation confirmed for 12-6-1981. But let's see how God helped us complete this journey without any problems. As I.V.Rao was checking the reservation chart, he saw berth allotment of a student at two places. During that time reservations were done manually. So here, a single student was allotted two berths. I.V.Rao is a jovial guy. When he realized this lapse, he decided to take advantage of the situation. One of the student's berths was allotted in the midst of all women passengers. He got an idea. He advised my wife to travel in that berth. He advised my wife that in case if a TC interrogates her, she can reply him stating that they have shuffled places. My wife travelled from New Delhi to Secunderabad. No TC checked her ticket during the journey. And coming to my journey I was seated with my friends. The TC was in the same compartment, but I don't know the reason why he has not checked our friends' tickets on that day. We two of us reached Hyderabad without any problems. Ever since then, in the last 30-35 years, I have made many train journeys. But the TC has never missed checking our tickets. This shows how God will be with us at the time of our need. A single student was allotted two berths. Why this happened? No answer for us. It is all Divine play. The other berth is meant for my wife's travel.

Why God has not taken up a form? If God takes up a physical form, how can he help all men? It is not possible to help all men. So he opted the formless means to assist men. This divine consciousness or the universal consciousness is full of these formless attributes of Lord. These formless attributes of Lord are beyond the reach of five elements. They are beyond the reach of the five senses of man. Hence man cannot grasp this divine phenomenon. Unable to grasp such a phenomenon, man is unable to trust God. This is the sorry state of man. God serves man in a number of ways. But man in a finite state, is relying heavily on the physical world, and hence is unable to realize the divine presence that is submerging him.

At home, our parents teach us with good behavior. At school, it is our teachers who teach the good things of life. And we all have many elders who guide us with many virtues. When we go to our place of work, our boss will keep vigil on our behavior and work. In this way after our birth, wherever we are, we are closely under vigil for our behavior. This observation will promote goodness among us. Only then our goodness will have a value. When we miss this vigil, we will go scot free and we commit many lapses, which carry no value. God is not seen. But he remains with us every movement. We cannot escape our thoughts, words and deeds from him. With this faith we must trust God's abilities. We must always follow truth. All those men who Follow Truth (God) under all odds will be naturally protected by God. In others opinion, such incidents may sound small, but for us they are the most blissful moments of our life.

In 1971 our parents with all their family members went to Puttaparthi for the first time to attend the Shivarathri function. In 1972 Bhagawan Baba laid down the foundation of 'Sivam' at Hyderabad. We used to stay at Malakapet Municipal Colony. We used to go to Sivam by boarding a local train. After the Inauguration of Sivam, almost every year, Baba used to stay at Sivam for 4 to 5 days. Those 4-5days, all our family members without fail would go to Sivam to have the Darshan of Sathya sai. On one such occasion, after the evening program was over, we reached Vidyanagar railway station to catch the local train to reach Malakapet. We saw the local train approaching Vidyanagar. We all ran to catch the train. My Father had no time to buy train tickets. We have to wait for more than half an hour to catch the next train. It was already night (around 8.00 pm). We ran to the station, got in to the train, and the train started moving. We travelled many times in the past, but we never travelled ticketless. To travel without ticket was never there in our parents minds. Never in the past were our tickets ever checked in a moving local train. But on that night as we all got into the train with great difficulty, and the train started moving, we saw a checking officer on the other side of a bogie. We know our lapse. All our family members prayed to Baba. The checking officer came very close to us. Just before he could check our family for tickets, he caught hold of two ticketless passengers, who are in their youth. By that time, the time reached Kachiguda. The checking officer caught hold of their shirts and pulled them out of the train and took them away. Our train started again, but without the checking officer. Thus we are bailed out. In 1974, the local train ticket was 30 paise. Who saved us? It was Our Lord. This incident may be a very minor one, but for our family members it was a cherished moment forever.

In this world, what all the resources that we see with our eye, we opine that they belong to man? We all believe that all the wealth that we see around us belongs to public and government. But how many can realize that all the wealth and resource that we see around belongs to Almighty God? All those who enjoy this realization will get habituated to good things in life. Knowingly they will never commit lapses. Even if we lack this realization, following our ancient traditions and culture, we must adhere to good qualities. In the moving local trains, very rarely this checking of tickets is done. All those ticketless passengers who are caught are not only penalized but also undergo imprisonment for their offence as the ticket checking is occasional done. There will be some passengers who deliberately travel ticketless. They might have saved some money in this way, but what happens if they are caught? They are penalized more money, much higher than their savings. Apart from this, they will undergo a lot of mental agony and waste of time. Hence man must never be tempted to such savings or offences or lapses. We must never think that our good works are going unnoticed. All our works will be noticed by God. With this awareness, man must always follow truth.

Around 3-4years back I was hearing Bhagawan Baba's message through Radio Sai. Bhagawan Baba in His speeches not only speaks of spiritual matters, but also covers a lot of issues, related to problems of our daily life. In this speech, Baba was saying these words. "We see many lorries. They are supposed to transport 10 tones of weight. But the lorry owners in order to gain more money will put more loads on their Lorries. The money thus gained will not be sufficient to meet the lorry repairs". We frequently see Lorries carrying more load than their prescribed limit. In this way most of the lorry owners got habituated. Whatever Baba speaks, I had full trust in His words. But on this occasion, after hearing these words related to lorry, I felt that Baba's words may not be applicable to Lorries. For those few moments of not trusting Baba's words, related to what He said regarding Lorries, I felt sorry for my attitude. I heard this speech in the morning at 7.00 am. On that day, in the afternoon, I was going to Ayinaparru (my mother- in- laws place) on my bike along with my wife. Believe it or not. As I was travelling through Gopalapuram, I saw a loaded sand lorry

trying to reach NH Road with full acceleration. The lorry was coming from the river, loaded with sand. With a lot of difficulty and with full acceleration the loaded lorry nearly reached the NH Road. When it was just 5-10 metres away from the NH Road, I heard a big bang of sound. I was on the NH Road. As I heard the sound, I looked towards the lorry and saw pipes and some parts resting on the ground from the bottom of the lorry. In a thrice, I recollected Baba's message that morning. He practically proved me His message. See how real this incident is! I mistrusted His words for just a few moments. But He has not taken a chance. He proved it to me on the same day, without any delay. These incidents show how close is God with man.

I finished my MSC from N.D.R.I, Karnal, Haryana in February, 1982. I have put up my family for one year in Karnal. During this period we visited good number of temples and places of historical importance. After my education, I left Karnal with my family. Because of my family, I had 15 items of luggage. During this journey, I am accompanied by my other A P friends, and hence I was least worried with my luggage. A P Express leaves New Delhi at 7.00 am. Karnal is 125 Km away from New Delhi. So whenever we want to catch A P Express, we will reach New Delhi, the previous night, and spend the whole night on the New Delhi Railway station platform. We left Karnal with our entire luggage on a train and reached New Delhi. We are accompanied by a NDRI Friend, Whose parents stay in New Delhi. Even this friend accompanied us and assisted us up to New Delhi. After reaching New Delhi, our entire luggage is unloaded from the train. My wife counted our luggage. The count was ok. We carried our entire luggage and other A P friend's luggage to a corner place on the platform and went out of the station. My wife was present with our luggage. She again counted our luggage. She found one of our luggage missing. This bag contained woolen items prepared by my wife during her last one year stay at Karnal. She felt very sad for missing the bag. She was all alone taking care of our entire luggage. The train was still on the platform. But we all went out of the station. She could not leave our luggage, and check the bogie again for the missing bag. She started praying God. After 10 minutes we came back. Immediately my wife informed me of the missing bag. I ran towards the compartment and entered it. Our bag was lying all alone. There was no one nearby. I felt very happy. My wife was thrilled upon seeing the bag. As soon as I got down with the bag, the train left the platform. Upon seeing the bag, my wife realized her mistake. The New Delhi friend who assisted us has carried a similar bag. He helped us in unloading the luggage from the compartment. My wife counted his bag as a part of our luggage. After all, we all are men. We commit some lapses without our knowledge. But God the infinite entity is always with us to help us. Daily He is extending His help to all of us. We all must enter into His infinite shade to receive total protection.

**ESTABLISH THE RELATION WITH INFINITY:** Our mind is a finite entity and our soul is an infinite entity. Moon is a finite entity and Sun is an infinite entity. Hanuman is finite and Lord Rama is infinite. Note here how important it is to establish a relationship between these two entities.

Moon receives the light from the Sun and in turn reflects it as Moon light to the humanity. Hanuman is a master of many arts, but he is unaware of his skills and power. Only in the presence of Lord Rama, he shone brilliantly. And in the same way, now it is our turn to establish the relation (link) between our mind and soul. Our mind can be compared to Moon and also with Hanuman. We are born as humans. Don't miss the golden chance.