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*A Special Talk Given by Prof. Anil Kumar*

*“Your Life is My Message”  
Jakarta, Indonesia*

*October, 2011*

*OM...OM...OM...*

*Sai Ram*

*With Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan,*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

### ***INTRODUCTION***

I am so glad to be here this afternoon! I happily recall my visit of six years ago and recognise many familiar faces among you. Plus I really appreciated your melodious *bhajans*. May Bhagavan bless you!

We are meeting today under special circumstances: we are having this first large meeting after Bhagavan's physical withdrawal on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He breathed His last on April 24<sup>th</sup> and His body was laid to rest on the 27<sup>th</sup>. So we are meeting in an altogether different situation.

### ***DO NOT CONFINE BHAGAVAN TO THE PHYSICAL FRAME***

So long as we lived under the protection of our Divine Father in physical form, we received lots of name and fame because He was in the physical frame. We also had many opportunities to talk to Him whenever we were privileged to have interviews. It was possible to pass on our letters to Him. There were many occasions to personally hand over wedding invitations and such on special occasions.

We would wait for Him there every day. As we saw Him, we forgot our problems. We did not know where we were! All our tiresomeness and our burdens of life were gone. Now that powerful *darshan* is no longer available. So, questions come to our mind: “Why should I go to Prashanthi Nilayam? Who am I going to meet there? Who is there to talk to me? Who is there to comfort me? Who is there to bless me?” These questions naturally arise in the minds of everyone. We were used to His physical form, and we got used to private conversations.

Unfortunately, some of us have developed a spirit of ego because of that closeness. Some even proudly say, "I am close to Bhagavan!" Some even egoistically declare, "Swami gave me an interview every time!" People of publicity show the rings and chains gifted to them by Swami. Therefore, this category of egoists, this class of exhibitionists, and this group of proud people feel the absence of physical Baba. But my friends, there are millions of devotees who have never spoken to Him. There are millions of devotees who were never close to Him. There are many, many who never even saw Him.

If you calculate those who were close to Him physically, it would be less than one percent. Most of them continue to be devotees. The problem is with these egoists or proud people, the people of publicity. Those who have never met Him from the Americas, like Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, still come to have the *darshan* of Swami and pray to Him. Last week a group of about fifty came from Brazil. They say they feel Bhagavan every day there. About two thousand devotees came from Canada. They tell me they experience Bhagavan each day.

Now it is clear that there are those who experience Him in the absence of His physical form, as well as those who find it difficult to experience Him in the absence of His physical form. Then we can conclude that those who restrict or confine Bhagavan to the physical frame are certainly inferior or immature. Those who experience Him in His physical absence are more mature, experienced, and spiritual.

### ***GOD IS TO BE EXPERIENCED, NOT EXPRESSED***

God is to be experienced and not expressed. We are used to expression. We go on saying, "There is only one seat in the flight, and I got it! There is only one room left, and I got it! Only one Baba, and He gave me *padanamaskar!*" We are used to those kinds of stories.

That cannot continue, my dear friends! There are some who say, "I was coming in a lorry. There was another lorry that hit this lorry, and Swami saved my life!" Or, my grandmother was about to die, but Swami saved her life!" This is how we have spoken of Baba till now.

There are some people who go on speaking about their family matters: "Swami performed my first son's marriage!" He will go on explaining that for one full hour! Then, Swami performed his second son's marriage—another hour full! "And my wife is very close to Swami!" For half an hour! "There is *vibhuthi* flowing in our house." At least fifteen minutes! (*Laughter*) This 'family business' should discontinue hereafter. Nobody is prepared to hear your family story. Those days are gone.

### ***DEVOTION CANNOT BE MERELY RESTRICTED TO EXPERIENCES***

I heard that a particular speaker was about to be invited to some of the places I visited recently. I know that speaker. I know what that speaker talks about: only grandfather experiences, father experiences, grandmother experiences, family experiences (*Laughter*)—like a repeating DVD, continuously playing (*Laughter*) wherever that speaker goes! People know the whole speech by heart already! (*Laughter*) They have learnt it by heart! They are very much tired of this speaker. I told them, "Why do you invite a headache like that?" (*Laughter*)

There are many, many people who can speak. So we should find that today the scenario is different from the past. Your devotion cannot be a family narration. Your devotion cannot be

merely restricted to experiences. From the year 2003, the number of interviews was far less, very, very few, almost nil! From the year 2003, except for some handful of administrators, many, many, many people could not be close to Swami. They could not see Him in close quarters. They had no chance to talk.

So we have one large section of devotees who have never been close to Swami, who never experienced His physical closeness, who never had any interviews with Him. Then we have a second category: those who heard of Swami, but never saw Him; and a third category, those who neither saw Him nor experienced Him. That is the largest group today. If you talk to them about your family experiences, you have to distribute Anacin tablets as *prasadam!* (*Laughter*) So we should stop that. In household *bhajans*, in private groups, at a family gathering, at the dining table, you can go on bragging or blowing your own trumpet to your heart's content—or at least until the other gentlemen decide not to visit your house again! (*Laughter*)

### ***BABA WANTS US TO EVOLVE SPIRITUALLY***

What I want to draw your attention to is that Baba is much more than what you think. He is much more than what you estimate. Baba is personal and impersonal, Baba is individual and universal, Baba is general and unique, Baba is form-full and formless, Baba has attributes and is beyond attributes, He is time and beyond time. We have not seen the other side of Bhagavan. We have seen only the form-full Baba with a name.

Now, hereafter, we have to experience the nameless, formless, time-less, attribute-less Baba. This is a process of spiritual growth; this is a process of spiritual development. Swami never wants us to remain immature and inexperienced. One's education does not begin and end with kindergarten study. It is from school to college, from college to university, and from university to doctoral degree. We have to continue our spiritual journey; we have to evolve higher and higher. If water flows on and on, it remains fresh. If water does not flow, it becomes stagnate; it stinks and is unfit for consumption. So today we have to evolve and understand the reason to evolve.

Baba spent about seventy years teaching about spirituality. The seventy years of teaching will go wasted if we do not evolve. Father has given me property; so if I don't know how to use it, I am a useless fellow. Father will be happy if I inherit the property and improve it. Similarly, Baba has given us this spiritual treasure, this spiritual property that we have to use and improve upon.

In our younger days, when we started learning, there was a picture of a cat. Underneath was written 'C-A-T'. Under a picture of a dog, 'D-O-G' was written. In the next class, only 'cat' and 'dog' were written, with no pictures! In the next stage, we have to frame the sentences and read the books ourselves. You cannot stay at the elementary school level. "Where is the dog picture? Where is the cat picture?" You are not a dog to say that! Learning is a continuous process. So Baba wants us to evolve spiritually.

### ***BABA IS OMNISCIENT, OMNIPRESENT AND OMNIPOTENT***

Somebody asked Him, "Baba, we heard that you saved the life of a boy who fell from the third floor. When did You go and save him?" Swami told him, "I did not go. I was already there!" So though Swami is here, He saves somebody elsewhere. This only means that He is here, there, and everywhere!

There was one evening in Bangalore when Swami was to receive a car from a devotee. Swami was talking to some boys and teachers. He said, "Car is there at the airport now!" Then He talked about some other things. Then He said, "Now the car is at the railway junction." And then He talked some other things. "Hmm boy, the car is here now, right over there. Go and see!" While conversing there, He gave the running commentary on the car's whereabouts. It means that He is here and there.

To be here and there is the quality of Divinity. He knows everything. We cannot bluff Him! When I say something, He will add many other things that you did not tell. Therefore, Baba is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. There is nothing He cannot do.

There was a TV artist from California who visited Prashanthi Nilayam and then went back. For lack of leave, this lady had to go to the TV station straight from the airport without preparation, and she was to make some announcements, plus a short commentary, which she didn't have time to prepare. While she was talking, Baba started whispering into her ear what she was supposed to speak. She listened and then spoke. This is Sathya Sai Baba! He is there in Bangalore, but at the same time coaches a TV artist far away in California. That is Sathya Sai Baba! So if anyone says, "I don't see Sai Baba, I miss Him, I cry for Him," it is no doubt true. It is natural, but we cannot remain at that stage. That cannot be the be-all and end-all.

### *SPIRITUALITY IS THE AWARENESS OF HIS PRESENCE WITHIN US*

Our God expects a higher expression in our lives. Our God expects an evolution in our spiritual path. He will be very happy if we feel Him right now! Why do I say that? Baba said so clearly at one time, "I know many of you are very attentive to My talk right now." Do not forget this statement of Baba. What did He say? "I am always here, right now by your side!"

So when He is here right now by our side, where is the question of missing Him? Why do you cry? Shall I cry because I like to cry? There are some who either cry or make others cry. Crying is not spirituality! Laughter is spirituality, bliss is spirituality. So let us be blissful, let us laugh, and let us smile with the feeling of His presence, with the experience of His presence, with the assurance of His presence within us, in full awareness of His presence within us. That is spirituality.

Let the whole world feel that here are Sai devotees who feel Him even in His physical absence. Let the whole world know that here are Sai devotees who are highly devoted, more devoted than ever before, because Sai devotees have spiritually evolved.

"How is it that Sai *bhajans* are full of Sai devotees? How is it that such a number of service activities are undertaken by Sai devotees? How is it that they feel His presence?" That should be the comment from society.

Changing to some other *guru* would be the worst thing of our life: it would be the worst tragedy that could happen in our lives! To quote Baba, "It is a living death!" To change a *guru*, to change our God, is a living death. God is not a dress to be changed every day. Your relationship to God is not political. So it is unfortunate that some are feeling Baba is not amongst us.

### *SAMADHI IS VIBRANT, RADIANT, WISH-FULFILLING AND ENERGETIC*

Devotee numbers are increasing day-by-day to Mecca, though Allah is not there in the physical form. Devotees are increasing day-by-day in Shirdi, but Shirdi Baba is not there in His physical form! *Dargah* (a Sufi shrine built over the grave of a revered religious figure, often a Sufi saint) is only a *Samadhi*, but people go on visiting there. Jerusalem and Bethlehem, which are the main holy pilgrim centres for Christians, are full of devotees, though Jesus is not there in His physical form. People go to Bodh Gaya, Sanchi, and Sarnath, where there are well-known temples of Buddha. But Buddha is not there in physical form. Then, why would you not visit Prashanthi Nilayam, though He is not there in His physical form?

As Buddha is electrically vibrant in Bodh Gaya, as Jesus is very much alive in Jerusalem, as the Kaaba of Mecca is ever vibrant, as Shirdi's Samadhi is wish-fulfilling, Sathya Sai's Samadhi is vibrant, radiant, wish-fulfilling and ever energetic! (*Applause*) Submit your prayers there, surrender to the Samadhi, touch that Samadhi, or let your forehead touch that Samadhi. You will experience what Baba is!

An electricity socket is hanging there; touch it with your fingers and you will know what electricity is! You will get an electric shock! Go to the Samadhi, touch the Samadhi, or merely think of the Samadhi, and you will experience Sathya Sai Baba's vibrations entering into your body. (*Applause*) When you think of your father, you begin to imagine him. When you think of your mother, you begin to feel her presence. Similarly, when you think of the Samadhi, when you pray to the Samadhi, it is the same as Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It is Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, no doubt about it! (*Applause*)

#### ***EVERY ATOM OF PRASHANTHI NILAYAM IS BABA***

I can also tell you that our Sai Baba is waiting there: Prashanthi Nilayam is His place. Puttaparthi is the place where He was born and where He spent eighty-five years. He never moved out of Puttaparthi except for occasional, sporadic, incidental visits to Bombay, Chennai, Delhi and a few other places, that's all! Most of the time He spent in Puttaparthi as Puttaparthi was so dear to Him.

When you say 'Ayodhya', you think of Sri Ram. When you say 'Mathura', Bhagavan Krishna is there in our mind. It is the same thing when you say 'Prashanthi Nilayam': Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba comes to our mind. (*Applause*) Not only that: when you walk on the sands of Puttaparthi, it is the same sand that our Lord walked upon. When you breathe the air of Puttaparthi, it is the same air breathed by our Lord. If you sit in the hall, it is the same place where He moved about. When you look at His chair, it's the same chair upon which He sat. Every inch, every speck, every atom of Puttaparthi, Prashanthi Nilayam, is Baba, Baba, Baba only!

#### ***SWAMI LOVES PRASHANTHI NILAYAM VERY MUCH***

There are some people who say that He shifted from Puttaparthi. It is impossible! If anyone says anything like that and if you are courageous enough, ask him to shut up. (*Laughter*) If you have no courage, move away from there. Baba is not the type to shift from anywhere. A simple example: once Swami said to a group of devotees, "I will come to Sri Lanka." It was Buddha Poornima. He said, "I will visit Sri Lanka."

I am also a selfish man. If He goes to Sri Lanka, I can also follow Him because I will have a chance to translate His talks. Next day I asked, "Swami, when are they taking You to Sri Lanka?"

Baba said, "Taking Me? Nobody on earth can take Me! All have to come under the umbrella, under the shade of Sathya Sai in Prashanthi Nilayam. Nobody can take Me! The whole world must come here. I am not that type of a *guru* to go around everywhere. Here is jaggery or sugar. All ants come to jaggery or sugar, but sugar won't go to the ants! All My devotees come to Me: I am the sugar, this is Prashanthi Nilayam."

Therefore, my friends, Baba attracted devotees from all over the world while being in Prashanthi Nilayam only. If anyone says that He shifted from here, he is half-mad. If you believe it, you are fully mad! (*Laughter*) Krishna, when He goes to Brindavan, was jubilant. Rama, while going back to Ayodhya, was exuberant. Swami returning from Bangalore to Puttaparthi, oh, He would be so joyful, blissful, and playful. He loved that place very much. He made a promise to His mother that He would never leave that place. Knowing all these things that Swami said, if a fool says that He shifted from there, he deserves a place in the mental hospital. (*Laughter*)

### ***DREAMS ARE INDIVIDUAL AND PERSONAL***

There are others who say that they had a dream that Swami left Puttaparthi. You can tell them, "I got a dream that you left this earth!" (*Laughter*) There are those who say, "I had a dream that you should all come to my town." You can tell them, "I had a dream that I should not believe your words."

Let us remember that life is not a dream. Though Swami says, "Life is a dream, realise it," He is speaking from a very high spiritual level. For mundane fellows like us, daily life is not a dream, but a very practical affair. So, dreams come and go. The dreamer may feel that his dreams are correct. But these dreams are personal and individualised. I am speaking from Baba's messages themselves.

You cannot tell a government clerk, (even the President cannot say,) "I dreamt that Indonesia should be vacant!" He cannot say that it should be vacant and that people should go away. Who are you to dream about me? Please dream about yourself! And then keep it to yourself. Don't be so shameless as to share your dreams with everybody, which is nothing but nonsense.

### ***DO NOT BELIEVE FALSE PROPAGANDA***

There are some who say that money should be donated to their cause: "I am starting a college in the name of Baba," "I am starting a hospital in the name of Baba," "I am starting a new Trust in the name of Baba."

Please tell them, "You may start the Trust, but I don't have trust in you (*Laughter*) nor in the trustees."

There is only one God whom we have seen, whom we have experienced, and who has given us plenty. He is Sathya Sai Baba. There is only one Trust that He started, the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. He was the President of the Central Trust till recently—the President! That is the only authoritative, legal body.

Let us be sensible, let us be logical, and let us behave properly in not believing others' words. Go anywhere, listen to all those words said against Swami's statements, but don't believe them!

Someone asks a question: "How is it that there are gold bars in the cupboard of Baba's room?"

My answer is, "I have not seen those cupboards. I have not seen those gold bars. I was there physically for the last twenty-two years. How could you see His room? How could you see His cupboards? How could you see these gold bars? Your eyes must be like X-rays to see them, not ordinary eyes." (*Laughter*)

That's all bogus, that's all false. So don't believe this false propaganda. There was a lack of communication. People did not talk to the reporters at the right time in the right way. Therefore, journalists have written in their own way, whatever little they know.

### ***SATHYA SAI BABA IS THE ONLY CHAMPION OF POOR PEOPLE***

My friends, in front of all of you, I can say one thing: many people may have written against individuals or spoken against individuals; but the whole world can agree on one thing. Sathya Sai Baba is the only champion of poor people! (*Applause*) Sathya Sai Baba is the only Divine personality who achieved, within seventy years, a maximum number of welfare programs. For humans, it would require five hundred years to complete that much. Yet within seventy years, He could do it all.

Puttaparthi was a village with a population of only one hundred—a village that had no roads, no power supply, filled with illiterate people who were totally poor, cut off from the madding crowd, uncivilised—such a remote village was transformed by Him and today attracts the whole world. The whole world may not know where Bombay is, may not know where Hyderabad is, but the whole world knows where Prashanthi Nilayam is! (*Applause*) That is Sathya Sai Baba! He made it globally important. He made it the centre of the universe, and He made it a place of spirituality.

### ***BHAGAVAN BABA IS INTER-CONTINENTAL, UNIVERSAL GOD***

Here is a boy who, in seventh class, discontinued schooling. With no college studies or degrees, He reached such a position. He could talk to doctors, engineers, politicians, and scientists—that seventh class boy would later even challenge scientists, doctors, and professionals! That boy is Sathya Sai Baba, the Divine! (*Applause*) When the doctors were confused, Sathya Sai Baba told them what to do, and what medicines to give.

You all know the Hanuman statue above the Hill View Stadium. There Hanuman is in a standing posture, carrying a mountain, but with one leg up in the air. Such a large statue is not found anywhere else in India! It was taken up to the mountain top to be erected there. All the engineers said to Swami that it was impossible to erect it because the mountain is too pointed on the top, like a cone.

Baba went up there. "Come on! I will be up here, so bring the statue. Don't worry!" Today Hanuman is installed because Sai Rama was there at that moment! (*Applause*) That is Sathya Sai Baba.

You must have heard of L&T Company. L&T stands for Larsen & Toubro: they are well-known construction engineers. They came to Baba, showing maps and plans. “Swami, we do it here like this, and then like that, and finally like this.” He will appreciate them and thank them.

Finally He will say, “Why not do it this way? Is it not cheaper if you do it this way? Will it not be completed earlier if you do it this way?” Engineers have only one way—to fall at His Feet helplessly. (*Laughter*) L&T is an international company. But they have to fall at the Feet of Baba. Why? It is an international company, but Bhagavan Baba is inter-continental, a universal God! (*Applause*)

### *BHAGAVAN BABA IS THE SUPER SURGEON*

There is a man from Chittoor who is a business magnet. He served as a Member of Parliament and as the TTD chairman (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams). He came for Swami's *darshan*. Swami spoke to him and said, “Just go to the hospital and see how nice it is!”

This man went to the hospital and walked around the hospital. It was very nice. He saw his classmate who was there on a visit, a cardiologist by the name of Dr. Choudhary. He said, “Hey, doctor! How are you? We are classmates, right?” and this man added, “Check my BP, let's just see what it is!” (Just as a matter of fun.)

Upon checking the BP, the doctor said, “You cannot go out now; you have to go into the hospital (*Laughter*) Such high BP! You will not survive. Come on inside. Fast! Treatment should start now!”

He was alright till then. He spoke to Swami and Swami just asked him to go to the hospital on a visit. He never thought that he was to be admitted to the hospital. (*Laughter*) He was in bed when Baba came to see him at 10:00 o'clock in the morning. “How are you, boy? (*Laughter*) Is the hospital nice? Is the bed comfortable for you? Don't worry. You don't need to inform your children, and don't inform your wife. Treatment will start and you will be perfect. Don't worry.” Baba gave him *prasadam* and He left.

Doctors did all tests and investigations: sugar was high, BP was also high. (Wherever money is high, these complaints will also be higher!) (*Laughter*) The doctors said, “We cannot operate on you now: BP and sugar should be under control before we can operate.”

This man lost control of himself. Doctors went and reported to Swami, “Swami! We cannot operate.”

Swami said, “You are operating tomorrow. I am coming to the theatre.” Swami sat there in the theatre while the doctors' hands were shaking: performing a heart surgery with high BP levels! (*Laughter*)

Baba said, “I am here, so no BP! You should be happy, no BP!” (*Laughter*) Naturally, the operation was successful! The doctors could not believe it. Normally, it is impossible to conduct surgery on such a patient. How was it possible? That patient, although totally in a bad condition, was in the hands of a super-surgeon, Dr. Sathya Sai Baba! (*Applause*) So he was saved!

### *SATHYA SAI BABA CANNOT BE KNOWN, ONLY EXPERIENCED*

He did not study any medicine nor did He study engineering, so how can He advise engineers? How can He advise doctors? A few cosmonauts who made air travel to the moon came on a visit to Puttaparthi. Swami went on talking about stars and the galaxy of stars, the lunar system and the solar system in such a way that even they did not know. (*Laughter*) He has shown them what the moon is, right there in the interview room, and then He told the cosmonauts (please follow this statement): “Man going to the moon is not important. Man travelling in space is not important. God taking life in the form and with the name of Sathya Sai Baba is most important!” (*Applause*) Man going to the moon is less important, while God walking on earth is most important! (*Applause*) That is Sathya Sai Baba!

When He moves and talks to us, we think we know. First thing we should know is that we do not know. (*Laughter*) To think that I know is the beginning of foolishness. To think that I only know is madness. To know that you do not know is wisdom! Why? God cannot be known.

Can you see the air? If anyone says, “I have seen air, I have seen air,” stay away from him! (*Laughter*) So how do you know God? He cannot be known, and He is not supposed to be known. He is not meant to be known. He is not a subject to be studied, nor is He material to be experimented with in a laboratory. Simply He has to be experienced. Sathya Sai Baba has to be experienced, but He cannot be explained or expressed! Please understand that! Sathya Sai Baba cannot be known; Sathya Sai Baba can only be experienced. Sathya Sai Baba represents all values.

### *SWAMI IS NOT THE PHYSICAL BODY*

He says, “You are not the body, you are not the mind!” So how can Baba be the body? How can Baba be the mind? When you are not the body, how can He be the body? Baba was there in the hospital for twenty-seven days. Please believe me: I touched His Feet thousands of times, so I know His body. I pressed His Feet to my knees. His body is softer than a rose petal, softer than butter, softer than cotton! How could He bear all the injections and the pain? How could He bear the pinches of the needles? How could that body bear that suffering? How is it possible to be on dialysis for twenty-seven days? How is it possible with a liver problem, a lung problem, a heart problem and asthma to continue to live for twenty-seven days? Thirty-six doctors both from India and abroad treated Him.

Now follow me, my friends. Follow me! Please believe me, I can openly say this with confidence: In the hospital, He allowed His body to remain on the bed, but Baba was not there in the hospital. The body was there in the hospital, but He was not there in the body. Then where was He? He was on a holiday trip (*Laughter*)—Malaysia, Indonesia, Tanzania, America—an inter-continental traveller, our Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba! (*Applause*)

He started visiting devotees. He started talking to them, while leaving the body there in Puttaparthi. “So doctors, do whatever you want to do with this body. I am not there! Come on, do it! (*Laughter*) Any number of tests, but I am not there! I know how long to be here, and I know when to get out. You doctors cannot say that I should go now. You doctors cannot extend my stay. I decided when to come, and I decide when to go! From the worldly point of view, come on, do your tests!”

### *SWAMI TOOK 27 DAYS TO PREPARE PEOPLE*

Then, why did Baba stay there in the hospital for twenty-seven days? Why? Please believe me: He stayed there to prepare all of us to meet that ultimate departure from His beautiful form! If the end of His life had happened right at the beginning of His hospitalisation, thousands would have died throughout the world. It would have been a terrific shock!

Many old people continue to live because of Swami. Single parents continue to live because of Baba. Many widows and widowers live in hope, with the support of Baba. Many, many people with so many health issues live because of Baba's blessings. Even broken families are also hopeful with Swami there. There are so many people—vegetable and fruit vendors, many casual labourers, electricians and carpenters—thousands depend upon Him there in Puttaparthi! If that departure had been sudden, the whole of Puttaparthi would have been a burial ground!

Therefore, He delayed His physical departure. He took twenty-seven days to prepare people. We are not that strong to receive such a shock. Even now some people are still crying. What would have happened to them if He had left His body immediately after entering the hospital?

### *SWAMI HAS GIVEN HIS LIFE FOR HIS DEVOTEES*

Look at Baba! From 2003, with all His health problems, He continued to shower His Grace, He continued to smile, He continued to protect, He continued to bless. Twice He had a hip fracture, plus a fracture near the elbow so that He could not extend His hand, could not get up, and could not eat sometimes with all these health problems, particularly from 2003. But the smile on His face, His Grace and Divinity never failed!

If anyone asked, "Swami, how are You?" He told them, "I am fine!"

"Swami, really how are You?"

"I am fine!"

"Swami, how ARE You?"

"If you ask again, I will send you out! (*Laughter*) I am fine!"

How can He be fine? With a fracture anywhere, can you be fine? How about us? A simple cold will create hell in our families. A slight rise in temperature will create havoc in our homes. A 98.4 degree temperature is enough to ask for casual leave. Did Baba apply for casual leave? Did He cancel any *darshan*? Did He stop blessing people? Did He put on a long face? Is there any expression of pain? Is there any expression of grief? Any word of ill health? Any complaint? No, never, never!

He went on smiling, blessing, talking, advising, encouraging, and curing the diseases of everybody, while neglecting His own health. He neglected all His problems; He never cared for His health issues. My friends believe me! He neglected His health.

Doctors said, "Take rest!"

He said, "Nothing doing!"

Doctors said, "We should examine You!"

He said, "Nothing doing! I don't want My devotees to cry for Me. I don't want My devotees to miss My *darshan*." So He neglected His health. He has given His life for the devotees. That is Sathya Sai Baba! (*Applause*) He was in bed so that we can be on earth, He was sick so that we can be healthy; yet with all the pain, He could smile.

### ***MESSAGE OF BABA: MAKE EVERYBODY HAPPY, EVEN IN SICKNESS***

The *Avatar* gave us all a message. His life itself is a message. In active life, Baba gave us the message: while you are active, serve poor people. Do everything that helps poor people, fulfil their needs; sacrifice and take up welfare projects. While you are young, come on, think of God, meditate on Him, and make use of your active young life. The *Avatar* has this message for youth.

Baba in the hospital also had a message to convey. The hospital was never closed for one day: all the patients came and went, even while Swami was there in the hospital. His actions gave this message: "This body may be in pain, but all should be happy. This body may be sick, but all should be healthy!" That is the message of Sathya Sai Baba: to make everybody happy, even while His body is suffering. (*Applause*)

### ***HIS LIFE IS HIS MESSAGE***

His life is the message. His life is His message! Many people have got a message, but it is not in harmony with their life. Their life is a divergence from their message. But here is our God, Sathya Sai Baba, whose life and message are in perfect 100% unity and harmony. It is not a simple message.

A *guru* gives a message, while God lives according to His message. So Baba is not a *guru*. He is God, who lives His message! (*Applause*) So you may change your *gurus*, but you cannot change your God. Why? *Gurus* are many, but God is one! There are not two Gods, like Indonesian God and Malaysian God. Impossible! Therefore, my friends, you cannot change your God. Sathya Sai Baba is the only one! (*Applause*)

A *guru* shows the way and a *guru* will show you the goal. Baba shows you the way, and He is the goal because He is God. He is the way and the goal as well. He is the student and teacher as well. He is a bachelor and the *samsari* (householder) as well. Baba is like a departmental store, meaning the whole universe is in Him.

### ***LET US ALL LIVE HIS MESSAGE***

Therefore, my friends, my special appeal to you is, "Never give up Baba!" If you are to give up Baba and forget His name, it is the worst tragedy that can happen in one's own life. You cannot forget your parents. Impossible! More so, you cannot forget your God. If you follow His message, if you follow His life, our Father will be very happy. He taught us for seventy years. If we follow His principles, if we follow His values, He will be very happy. Therefore, from today do

service more than ever before, sing *bhajans* more than ever before, be devoted more than ever before; smile, laugh and do Sai activities more than ever before!

All Sai devotees should set an example to the whole world: we represent unity. We are strong in our devotion and unity, and we devotees are pillars of values for this nation. A Sai devotee is a role model to follow and emulate. We have heard only about Baba till now. Now the whole world should see, observe, and learn from us today. The whole world saw Him earlier; from now on, they will see Him in us from today.

The whole world heard His messages; now the whole world will see us practicing His message from today. They have seen Him as an embodiment of sacrifice; now the world should see us as men of sacrifice. They know Baba is kindness itself; now everybody should feel our kindness. He is compassion, so everybody around us should feel our compassion. He is love; hence, everybody should experience that lovingness, that love, from within us.

Therefore, hereafter His message should be our life. People should see His message in practice in the lives of His devotees. Society will see His form while looking upon us. Where is Baba now? He is in everyone, in all these forms! Everyone is Baba: Sathya Sai Baba is in your hearts. That should be our feeling. Nobody should shed a tear; nobody should cry because Baba is life and not death. Baba is eternal life, Baba is immortal life. So Baba is ever active and dynamic.

### *DO NOT ALLOW YOUR FAITH TO BE SHAKEN*

My friends, in my forty years of life with Him, getting the chance to be so near and close to Him, and having been blessed to translate His talk for twenty-two years, I do not know where to begin, where to end, and how long to talk.

I just leave it to the platform and the organisers. As I see questions pouring in, I think it is time to start the question and answer session. But before I do, I am telling you one truth: Indonesia is privileged, Indonesia is lucky, and Indonesia is fortunate (*Laughter*) because many, many devotees from Indonesia come to Prashanthi Nilayam in maximum numbers. (*Applause*)

Sai devotees from all over the world are proud of Indonesia and the devotees from Indonesia. So don't allow your faith to be shaken. Don't allow anybody to pollute you. Don't fall into anybody's trap. Bring credit to yourself. Keep up your standards!

I can tell you another thing: While talking to the Spanish countries, I had a Spanish translator. While in Japan, I had a Japanese translator. Talking to Russians, I had one Russian translator. However, no translator so far is of the standard of this young man! (*Applause*) He even offered a challenge to me, translating faster than the original talk! (*Laughter*) While Baba was the speaker, I was the translator. (*Laughter*) Today the translator has taken Baba's role, (*Applause*) and translator Anil Kumar has taken the speaker's role, which means that I am always number two, there and here also! (*Laughter*)

I pray to Swami to bless this young man! (*Applause*) I request members of the organisation from Indonesia to keep him as the only translator for my talks! (*Applause*) With him, I am strong, with him, I am energetic. He smiles and I doubly smile! (*Laughter*) That's what life is! God bless you! Thank you! Give him a thunderous applause! (*Applause*)

## ***WIFE IS A REMOTE CONTROL AT HOME AND IN SPIRITUAL FIELD***

Now we go to the question and answer session, open to all the families. Let me note one thing. When the husband is a devotee, the wife is not a devotee. When the wife is devotee, the husband is not a devotee. If both are devotees, their children are not devotees. This balance is there in nature. You cannot have only chilli powder. There should be some salt also! (*Laughter*)

There is something wrong with ladies. First, they go on complaining, “My husband is not a devotee, my husband is not a devotee!” They go on crying until the husband becomes a devotee. So the poor fellow becomes a devotee. He goes deep into the organisation. Now the wife cries again, “He has no time for me!” (*Laughter*)

So you cried then, and you cry now; it makes me cry both of the times! (*Laughter*) This is the law of nature. But I can tell you this: watching you, the husband will follow the wife. Ninety percent of Sai Baba devotees are devotees because of their wives only! (*Applause*) So a wife is the remote control at home and in the spiritual field also! Therefore, I compliment ladies because they are the engine, while we are the compartments. God bless you!

### ***How to purify our heart from jealousy and anger? Sometimes it is difficult to do that even when we have already striven to do sadhana. So, how to purify our heart?***

You don't have to purify your heart. The heart is already pure. (*Laughter*) You are born pure. So just don't pollute it. The heart is not impure; you are making it impure. You are born pure, so it has been pure. Your selfishness, self-interest, and narrow-mindedness have made the heart impure.

What should you do? You have to make the heart as pure as it was when it was originally given to you. How to do that? Sai *bhajans* will clean your heart, Sai service will remove all impurities, and Sai meditation will extend your life. So to be healthy, wealthy and wise, follow Sai. That is the solution. (*Applause*)

### ***Uncle Anil, my question is how to reduce our ego?***

Not reduce it, but let it go! Go ego, you go! (*Laughter*) After all, why should you be egoistic? Baba gives us this example: in the whole of the universe, there are the so many stars and planets and the earth is just like an ant. It means the earth is only the size of an ant! So, Indonesia is the size of one eye of that ant, while Jakarta is a mere speck in the eye of an ant. So what is there for you to feel proud of?

What are you at home? Children don't listen to you! You are not sure of your wife, whether she will say 'yes' or 'no'. As you are not sure of your wife, what is there to be egoistic about? You can be egoistic for one thing: “I am fool number one”, (*Laughter*) “I am crack number one”, or “I am cheat number one.” You can feel proud of those things, but not any other thing in this world.

Spiritually speaking, ego means I-ness, I-ness, I-ness! People say, “I built it. I did it. I educated my children. I bought the house!” This is all ego. (*Laughter*) But really, where is the chance to be egoistic? You may be very beautiful, but you are not beautiful because of yourself. Your parents are beautiful, so therefore you are beautiful! (*Laughter*) You cannot say, “I am very tall!” It is not your achievement. Your parents and grandparents are tall; therefore you are tall.

This is all a weakness of the mind. The mind wants everything. The desire of the mind is endless, and the imagination of the mind is endless. Mind never gets satisfied: it wants more and more. It wants you to be a singer, a music man. It wants you to be everything, which is impossible! All are His children, so He gives each one a gift. So make this monkey mind turn to Baba. Mind then becomes a diamond. “Oh mind, never mind! Oh mind, follow Him! Oh mind, think of Him!” That is the only way you can be happy.

*Sab Ko Sanmati de Bhagavan.*

*Oh God, give me a good mind.*

***Just a little inquisitiveness: Did your faith in Baba grow with experience? If so, can you narrate few experiences?***

When water is flowing, if you block it, there is a terrific speed out of which electricity is generated. Similarly, when you want to do good work, when there are obstacles, your speed will increase. You will be more determined; you will take it as a challenge. An ant is moving forward and there may be some obstacles. What will it do? It will take a diversion—that way and this way—but still proceed.

So there may be obstacles, there may be negative-minded people, there may be people who discourage, but none can stop me from doing! I may be lying low-key, yes, but still I will be continuing my work. Nobody can stop me.

In my personal life, there were so many obstacles. Many people wanted to stop me. There were none to encourage me. There were many people who acted against me, but I never gave up my ambition because my ambition is more important than my promotion. My ambition is more important than pleasing any bosses. My God is more important than all these people! That determination will allow you to go ahead.

***Oh, non-devotees often ask me when Swami's replacement will come.***

Swami's replacement! (*Laughter*) I don't know what to answer. Yes! How to replace Swami? (*Laughter*) If you replace your mother, I will tell you how to replace God! (*Laughter*) (*Applause*) Very easy, please try. Replace your mother immediately, and then I will replace Swami! (*Laughter*) Impossible! If there are many, one can be replaced by the other. But there is only one God. How can you replace Him? Impossible!

***Dearest Brother Anil, you may think that this is a unique question. Can you please throw light on an explanation as to why Baba left us at the age of 86 years when we thought that He would be here until 96 years? Please clarify.***

Why did you not put that question to Swami when He said that He will be here till ninety-six years? “Swami, why not one hundred and six?” Why did you not ask that question? When He said ninety-six, why not for one hundred and six? But we didn't say that. So from ninety-six, He has reduced it to eighty-five. Why not? It is His privilege. He can extend or withdraw.

He said ninety-six as per what calculation? That He did not tell us. There are two systems of calendars: one is the solar system, the other is the lunar system. According to the lunar system, He had completed ninety-six years.

Should He follow your command? Should He wait for your instructions? Lunar and solar equally belong to Him. He can choose either one of the two, or neither of the two. So He followed the lunar system to keep His word of ninety-six years. Thereafter, He has withdrawn from the body.

Baba will never utter a lie. What He says will happen and that has happened! Please keep it in your mind. When we have a problem, we pray and surrender. We feel at times that the world is upside down. We expect Swami to give a solution; but till then, what should we do? The world will never turn upside down; only we turn upside down! (*Laughter*) It's a simple thing: we think we are stable and steady, but we are not!

The earth is revolving at a high speed. In addition, it revolves around the sun. But we think we are stable! We are not! We think this is day and that is night. We say 'sunrise' and 'sunset'. Actually, the sun never rises nor sets. We have named Earth-turned-towards-the-sun as day, and away-from-the-sun as night. So the world will never really turn upside down. You only will turn upside down! (*Laughter*)

Coming by flight from Brunei, I may say, "Jakarta is coming, Jakarta is coming, Jakarta is coming!" As I leave Jakarta tomorrow to Medan, I will say that Jakarta left, Jakarta left! (*Laughter*) Jakarta has not come and Jakarta has not left; it is where it is! It is only I who come and I who leave! (*Laughter*) That's all it is!

***In your closeness with Bhagavan, did Baba ever mention about life on other planets? Is there any planet beside earth with life?***

We are already bored with this life here on this planet! (*Laughter*) Why another planet? We are not interested. (*Laughter*) We have enough troubles and sufferings here on this planet. (*Laughter*) If we are not able to get off of this one, why worry about the extra burden of another one? So don't worry yourself!

***Brother, is it okay to give our organs for others after we leave this body?***

After you leave this body, how do you say, "Okay, take my organs"? How do you say, "Don't take my organs"? (*Laughter*) If you are not there, nobody is there to take your permission. It's just left to the family people, not to you! You've already said, "Good bye!" (*Laughter*)

***Many times I do suprabhatam at 2:30 or 3'o clock in the morning (Laughter) and then do my meditation. Is it correct or not?***

If you start your meditation at 2:00 am to 3:00 am (in the middle of the night), it is alright if you are a bachelor. (*Laughter*) If you are married with a family, if you get up at 2:00 am (*Laughter*) for meditation, people will mistake you for the devil, not a human being! (*Laughter*) If you get up at 2:00 am to 3:00 am to meditate, you will sleep later in your office. (*Laughter*) Then you will be removed from service. Therefore, stop that!

***When someone puts you down, how does it affect your life?***

No one can put you down! Baba gives this example: Dig a deep pit here and place a lamp inside. The flame is upward and the light is upward, though it is in a deep pit. You may put me down, but my light will be up! My delight will be up! So nobody can put you down. If you hit the ball down with double speed, those who put you down are helping you to come up higher and higher. (*Applause*)

***Where do souls go after they die? Do they automatically attain moksha or do they just go into another birth cycle? (Laughter)***

Hmm, why are you bothered about it? Where do they go? Same place we go. (*Laughter*) There we meet and say, "Hi, how are you?" (*Laughter*) We will have common *bhajans* there! My friends, do not bother about life after death!

There are some people who are interested to know, "What will happen to me?" Nothing will happen to you! There are some people who forecast what is going to happen. I tell you, you are losing money going there, nothing else will happen! (*Laughter*) There are some people who go to *Nadi* books for readings. Those *Nadis* are correct so far as your past is concerned. The future predictions are never correct.

Why should you know your past? A Nadi fellow tells me, "Anil Kumar, you have four children!" Why should I give him five *rupees*? I have four children already! (*Laughter*) That fellow need not tell me. If the fellow tells me, "Anil Kumar, you are a Sai Baba devotee," I will say, "Shut up, I know!" (*Laughter*) Why should I pay him for that?

So don't be interested to know the past because it is already over. Don't be interested to know the future because knowing it won't help you. Suppose some fellow said, "Anil Kumar, you are going to be a gold-mine owner next year," then I might start spending money now because the gold mine is waiting tomorrow. (*Laughter*) But I may not gain the gold mine, so instead I will just lose my present money.

In short, it may not help you to know about a future which might be better. How will this help you? Suppose someone is saying, "Next year you will die!" This fellow may die tomorrow. (*Laughter*) No use in knowing the future! Future is mystery, past is history, so live in the present. Present is God, this moment is God. God is present, not past or future. Present is God! You are in the present, Baba is in the present. We are ever-present, omnipresent. (*Applause*)

***Why did Baba cry on His 85th Birthday?***

How do you know that He cried? (*Laughter*) How do you know that He cried on his eighty-fifth Birthday? It is not crying! Suppose your mother sees you after ten years: You have gone to some foreign country and return home after ten years. First thing she does is cry. Shall I say she is crying? These are tears of joy, tears shed when she is finally meeting her son again! Similarly, on the eighty-fifth Birthday, so many thousands of Sai devotees came to Puttaparthi. The Divine Mother Sai may have shed tears of joy. So that is not crying.

Swami doesn't know what crying is right from His childhood. He always laughs and He makes you laugh. His life is full of jokes. Time flies in front of Him. Why do you expect Him to cry? Never, never! Please understand, God is bliss, bliss is God. Baba is bliss, bliss is Baba. It is nothing short of that!

Thank you. That's all the questions I have received as of now. (Applause) Let us have just one or two fast *bhajans*!

*Prof. Anil Kumar joined in singing "Gopala Radhe Krishna Govinda Govinda Gopal" and "Nanda Mukunda Sai Natha."*

May Baba bless you! May Baba bless your families! May Baba continue to shower His choicest blessings on Indonesia and Indonesians! May your nation grow and prosper, becoming richer and richer! May you all be healthy, wealthy and wise! May you all hold on to the Lotus Feet of Baba till the last breathe of your lives! May Baba bless you with many more service activities! May you never leave Him forever and ever! May you hold on to His Lotus Feet! May we pass on this legacy, this heritage of Sai Baba, to our children! May our families be centres of peace! May our homes be centres of joy and bliss! May our houses, our homes, be temples for the worship of God! May we fill our lives with love, love, and love alone! May Sai bless you! Thank you. (Applause)

*Om . . . Om . . . Om  
Asato Maa Sadgamaya  
Tamaso Maa Jyotirgamaya  
Mrityormaa Amritgamaya*

*Om Shanti Shanti Shanti*

*Jai Bolo Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Babaji ki Jai!  
Jai Bolo Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Babaji ki Jai!  
Jai Bolo Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Babaji ki Jai!*

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