

**PROF. ANIL KUMAR'S SAI PEARLS OF WISDOM SATSANG:  
BABA'S CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENTS**

**"Sai Pearls Of Wisdom"  
Part Eight**

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

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

**Sai Ram!**

**With Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan!  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

**THREE EVENTS IN DECEMBER  
DECEMBER 2002**

First, let me wish you a 'Happy New Year!' This is the first meeting of this New Year 2003. I have a few details to share with you about events that happened during the month of December. There were three major happenings that I will explain in full detail.

The first, which I am sure you will be very much interested in, was Christmas and Jesus Christ. Then the second was the visit of the President of India, Abdul Kalam, to this place, the sentiments he expressed, the opinion he had, and the letter he wrote. Finally, the third is the recent achievement of the Sri Sathya Sai University. It has been declared to be the best university in this country! These are the three important milestones that happened during the month of December, which I want to share with you.

As you know, we are sharing highlights from Divine dialogues. I didn't say Divine whispers; they are Divine dialogues. Our idea is that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's conversations should also be made available for posterity just as Ramana Maharshi's conversations were recorded and just as Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa's conversations with his disciples were recorded and made available to all of us today. We are all accountable. It is for this reason that we have started this endeavour. I am glad that it has been widely published and is well received.

**THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

It so happened that the entire Prashanthi Nilayam was full of the resonance and resound of Christmas carols, particularly in the afternoons and evenings until *bhajan* time. It was so wonderful, I tell you. On certain afternoons while sitting with Bhagavan behind the curtain in the Poornachandra Auditorium, I also happened to hear the choir.

Bhagavan was immensely happy with the intensity of the devotion of these foreigners who were coming from different places and practising the songs meticulously, scrupulously, scientifically and carefully to perfection. That was really fantastic! Swami was all appreciative for both the preparation and the presentation by these foreigners. Let me congratulate all of you who participated in this event.

## **THE DISCUSSION ON CHRISTMAS AND JESUS CHRIST**

**DECEMBER 22, 2002**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, some of the conversation that went on centered around Christmas and the life of Jesus Christ. Bhagavan said that the Catholics had their own philosophy of Christianity and followed their own concepts. However, they were not accepted by a certain section of Christians, who opposed them and protested against some of their concepts. Hence, this sect became known as the 'Protestants'.

Bhagavan also said that Jesus taught that every man is God. He meant that *Atma*, Self or spirit is God. Swami calls this *Chaitanya Shakthi*, Divine power or energy, or Cosmic energy. That is Divinity. This is what Bhagavan explained then.

Swami said that Jesus faced opposition. Many people questioned him and doubted him. Like any God-man, Jesus faced all kinds of challenges. While declaring his own Divinity, Jesus spoke just as we find Bhagavan telling us today. He said that all are God, all are equal and all are Divine.

When a person asks Swami, "Are you God?" He says, "I am God and you are *also* God." This was also Jesus' teaching. When Jesus said that he is God and all are equal, He meant that the entire creation is Divine.

## **CRITICS TRANSFORMED**

Then Bhagavan also mentioned a miracle that happened during the life of Jesus Christ. It seems that a few fishermen were trying to fish, spreading their nets. But even until the evening, they could not catch a single fish. They were all very much disappointed and frustrated.

It so happened that Jesus passed by the same place. He took them to another location in the sea of Galilee and told them to try there. To their astonishment and surprise, when they spread the net there, they caught lots of fish. They came to know the glory of Jesus by this experience, which we call a miracle.

Bhagavan said that a tax collector with the revenue department, a man by the name of Matthew, came there to collect tax from these fishermen. The fishermen refused to pay the tax.

But Jesus said, “No, no! You just caught enough fish, so why do you speak lies? Earlier you couldn’t get any fish. But just now, you are getting so many fish at this place that I have shown to you. Why do you say that you do not have fish? You must pay the tax!” That’s what Jesus said.

Jesus is Justice. Jesus is Truth. Jesus is Righteousness. Jesus is Love. There is no question or doubt about this aspect of the Divinity of Jesus Christ. Discovering this Truth of Jesus, Mathew was totally transformed and became his devotee. He also did not collect any tax from the fisherman that day. He was simply moved and touched by the Truth of Jesus Christ.

There was also another man, a great personality of Biblical times, named Paul. He questioned and doubted Jesus Christ. But as Jesus appeared to him in a dream, Paul became transformed. He was the beneficiary of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Here was a man who, at one time, was a critic of Jesus Christ but later became Saint Paul.

Even today, in the times of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, critics get themselves transformed. Most of the people who doubt Him later become staunch devotees. That’s how it happens, and that is even what happened during the times of Jesus Christ.

### **THE THREE WISE MEN**

Then Bhagavan went on to say that, when Jesus was born, three wise men happened to visit that place. One of them said, “This child is going to love God.”

Another, an Arabian king, said, “No, God is going to love this child.”

The third wise man said, “No, he is going to find his identity with God, and that is what he is going to be called.” Those were the prophecies, spoken in the heights of devotion, of those three wise men who visited the newborn babe in Bethlehem on Christmas day.

### **JESUS IS BETRAYED**

Then Bhagavan mentioned another point. Jesus was always surrounded by His disciples. So many followers wanted to hear His Divine teachings. However, there was one disciple, Judas Iscariot. Judas betrayed and cheated his guru, Jesus Christ, just for a pittance, just for some money offered to him by the soldiers. That is what led to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. By receiving a few silver coins, Judas Iscariot told those soldiers: “Whosoever’s ring I kiss, that man is Jesus. You can catch him.” The disciples and Jesus wore the same dress in those days, so Jesus was difficult to identify. That’s how Judas betrayed his *guru*. What happened to the other disciples? They escaped on some pretext or the other. That’s what Bhagavan has said.

Mary was crying, watching the situation of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. To Mother Mary, Jesus said: “Mother Mary, why do you cry? Death is the dress of life.”

Commenting on this statement, Bhagavan said that one does not have to cry or worry about death. Just as we go on changing our dress every day, likewise we put on a new body. Do we cry about changing our dress? Certainly not! We simply wear a new dress.

Bhagavan mentioned another statement of Jesus Christ. While there were so many people around who were helplessly looking on, there were some other people who were ready to blame and crucify Jesus, the compassionate and righteous One, the only Son of God. What did Jesus say then? “All are one, my dear son. Be alike to everyone.” What a statement it is! It was only possible for Christ to say that. Enemies and betrayers were on the one hand; disciples on the other; he himself was in pain and agony. Still with all this, the Son of God could say, “All are one, my dear son. Be alike to everyone.”

I think you may remember that at one time Bhagavan said, “People may praise Me; people may blame Me. But I bless both of them because I am beyond. God transcends both blame and praise.” He is not carried away by your praise nor depressed by your blame.

### **MOTHER MARY**

I asked Bhagavan this question: “I have seen the statue of Mother Mary, carrying the infant Christ. People worship Mary also. In convents, we find Mary’s statue, and we also find Mary holding Jesus on her lap. There is a very big church in Bangalore called ‘Infant Jesus’. What is that all about? Why do people worship Mary?”

Please note what Bhagavan said: “Just as you people worship the mother of this body for giving birth to this *Avatar* (*referring to Easwaramma*), people also worship Mary, Jesus’ mother, in reverence, adoration and gratitude for giving birth to the Son of God. It is really an act of gratitude. That’s how Mary has come to be worshipped by Christians.” That’s how Bhagavan answered.

### **SAINTS AND SAGES**

I asked Him another question. “Swami, there are sages whom one refers to as *rishis* in *Sanathana Dharma* (the Eternal *Dharma*). But there are no sages mentioned in the Bible or in Christianity. I want you to comment upon this.

Baba said, “No, no, no. What you call a ‘sage’ in *Sanathana Dharma* is a ‘saint’ in the Holy Bible. Saint Paul, Saint Luke, Saint Matthew, Saint John — they are all sages.” That’s what Bhagavan told us.

Then I asked another question: “Swami, I am proud to say that I am from a Christian college. I spent about thirty years in a Christian college and even to this day, I am proud of my Christian college, my *Alma Mater*. The credit for the fact that I can speak English this well goes to the Christian missionaries, particularly the Lutheran Church in America. They sponsored our college, the Andhra Christian College at Guntur. Because of my affinity and close intimacy with Christian theology, I have one question to ask.

Swami was in a good mood, so I went on asking, “Swami, how am I to understand it when Christians, while praying say, ‘The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost?’” How am I to understand the meaning as a follower of *Sanathana Dharma*?”

What did Baba say? “Did you not hear what I say quite often? ‘You are not one but three: the one you think you are, the one others think you are, and the one you really are.’ That is the meaning of ‘the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost’. They are the same.” What a beautiful answer He gave!

### **DR. JOHN HISLOP**

“Swami, Jesus was crucified on the cross. What a pitiable situation it was. I heard that You showed the Cross to a devotee by the name of John Hislop. Is that true?”

“Yes, I have shown him the original Cross upon which Jesus was crucified.”

Then I said, “Swami, if You don’t mind, if You could be so kind, let me know how Hislop came to Your fold -- how did he come to know of You?”

Bhagavan said that Dr. Hislop stayed in Kashmir, the ‘Crown of India’, in the Himalayan Ranges, which you must have heard about. Hislop stayed in Kashmir for ten years, searching of sages and saints; but he could not find them anywhere.

At that time, there was one Defense Secretary of the Government of India whom Dr. Hislop knew well. On his invitation, Hislop happened to visit Delhi, where Bhagavan was at that moment. So, Hislop met Bhagavan for the first time in Delhi. He met Swami not only in public, but also in the palace where Bhagavan stayed.

When he saw Swami, he was quite happy that he could finally see the sage and saint whom he had been searching for all those ten years. Hislop himself declared that he found a white aura around the head of Bhagavan, as is noticed in the case of noble souls. After meeting Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Hislop expressed that he had come to the end of his quest or eternal search. After that, Hislop followed Bhagavan wherever He went.

Swami Himself then mentioned a miracle that was experienced by Dr. John Hislop. It seems Swami asked Hislop to carry a big iron trunk full of *saris* to a place where Bhagavan started distributing them to everyone. Hislop was handing *saris* to Bhagavan and Bhagavan was distributing them. As you know, Bhagavan always distributes the best quality *saris*, never second-rate ones. Everything is the best.

However, there were a few simpler *saris* that He did not distribute. When Hislop returned to the trunk, he saw water at the bottom of the trunk that was not there earlier. Had water been there at the beginning, the clothes would have been wet. This was not the case. Hislop was very much surprised. “Swami, what is this water?”

Bhagavan said, "The *saris* that were not fortunate enough to be distributed to the people by the Divine Hands were crying due to their ill-fate. They were miserable that they did not deserve the good fortune to get into the Divine Hands themselves." That's the story that Bhagavan mentioned that evening.

This story prompted me to ask a question: "Saris cry, Swami? How am I to believe it? Do *saris* have *Chaitanya* or awareness?"

Bhagavan said, "In this world, there is only awareness, that's all. There is no object without this awareness or *Chaitanya*, remember that. But *Chaitanya*, awareness, expresses itself at three levels. At the body level, it is *conscious*. At the level of the mind, it is *conscience*. At the level of *Atma*, the spirit or the soul, it is *consciousness*.

So, conscious, conscience and consciousness are the three levels of expression of awareness or *Chaitanya*. In other words, in the expression of the manifestation, there will be a degree of difference; but basically it is all awareness." This was Bhagavan's answer.

Then I said, "Swami, if everything is awareness, if everything is Divine, am I to understand now that I should not misuse the five elements, that I am not to misuse my senses or abuse nature? Am I to understand it that way?"

Bhagavan said, "Yes. That's why I always say, 'Do not waste. Haste makes waste. Waste makes worry, so do not be in a hurry. Don't waste food. Don't waste water. Don't waste energy. Don't waste money. Waste of money is evil. Time waste is life waste.'

Bhagavan said this so that we will understand that everything is essentially Divine, so we will not be negligent or underestimate anything at any cost.

Then I said, "Thank You. You told us so many things this evening."

### **REMEMBER THESE TWO STATEMENTS OF JESUS**

Then Bhagavan got up from His chair, walked a few steps, turned back and asked, "What things did I say?"

"Swami, things that we do not know; things that we have misunderstood; things that have brought light into our lives. We are indeed very grateful to You, Bhagavan. Thank You."

Finally I also said, "Swami, how beautifully You have integrated Christian theology with *Sanathana Dharma*. What a beautiful synthesis it is. We have to learn from only You, Swami."

I thought Bhagavan was proceeding toward the Mandir. As all of you know, His is the final word! He turned back and said, "Learning? There is no use in learning. You should

start **experiencing**, not learning.” Swami said this straightaway because it was *bhajan* time and the music had started.

It was time for Him to go into the Mandir, but then He said, “Remember these two statements of Jesus: What are they? ‘**All are one, my dear son. Be alike to everyone.**’ What is the second statement? ‘**Death is the dress of life.**’ Bye.” (*Laughter*)

## NEWS FROM DELHI

DECEMBER 27, 2003

Now I would like to mention to you certain things that Swami said on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December. This relates to the experiences and the statements made by Dr. Kalam, the President of India, the ‘first citizen’ and a great devotee of Bhagavan.

Bhagavan told everybody on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, “Look here, Abdul Kalam is going to speak in Delhi about Sri Sathya Sai University. He is going to speak on the PhD program of the University.”

Then He immediately called, “Vice-Chancellor, come on.” Immediately the Vice-Chancellor came and Swami said, “What news have you received from Delhi?”

“Swami, tomorrow the President is scheduled to speak at 11:30 AM on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the University Grants Commission, Government of India. He is going to speak on Sri Sathya Sai University with special reference to the PhD program.”

“I see. What are the highlights in our PhD program?” That’s what Swami asked innocently -- probably so that we could know.

Vice-Chancellor said, “Fluoride and spectroscopy.”

“Oh, I see. Okay, let them do whatever they like.”

And then the Vice-Chancellor mentioned, “Bhagavan, among all the universities, the President of India likes the atmosphere of Sri Sathya Sai University very much.”

Then Swami started joining in. Swami spoke about the feelings and the sentiments expressed by Abdul Kalam. “Yes, Kalam liked this atmosphere. He liked Swami and everything around. Yesterday the Prime Minister, the Deputy-Prime Minister, the leader of the ruling party, the Delhi Governor and Kalam, all of them sat together and spoke only about Sai University for one-and-a-half hours! Do you know what they said? They all said that ours is a ‘high-tech’ college. Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of this country, said that the Sathya Sai University is so great because there is an ideal Master, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, there.

Swami asked, “Boys, do you know who is the ideal Master?”

They all said, “Swami, You are the ideal Master.”

Then Swami added, “Look here, Prime Minister Vajpayee told President Kalam, ‘I have known Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for the last twenty years. You have come to know Him only in the last one-and-a-half to two years. I *know* His Divinity and His University.’”

Then one teacher said, “Swami, I heard that Kalam, the President of India said, ‘*Sai Baba ko, Abdul Kalam ka salam.*’” This is a sentence in Hindi meaning, “Salutations to Sai Baba from Abdul Kalam.” *Salam* means ‘Salutations’.

Swami said, “Yes, this is what he said. He is a good devotee. Yes, you must have seen him also.” That’s what Bhagavan related to us.

### **MOTORCYCLE AND CAR DRIVING**

The boys said, “Swami, we want you to see our sports preparation. Why don’t You come to the stadium?”

Bhagavan said, “I am not going to come. I am going to see the presentation on the final day. When you want Me to come, how can I come there? You are all doing motor bicycle stunts. I never drove a motorcycle. Of course, I sat on a motorcycle – on the second seat. But I never drove it. I just sat behind.”

“Oh Swami, did You?”

“Yes, in those days I had to come from Karnatakanagepali, where I was visiting when that village was completely submerged in water due to rains. I had to take a round-about way to leave the village by sitting behind another man who drove his motorbike. But I don’t know how to drive one.”

Then he said, “Boys, I know car driving though. Did you know that? I have driven all the cars except the BMW.” (*Laughter*) That’s what Bhagavan related to them that day.

### **OUR LIFE IS A HOSPITAL**

**DECEMBER 29, 2002**

Swami made this statement: “When President Kalam came to Parthi, he visited the Super Specialty Hospital. He was very much inspired. He went back and spoke about the hospital in a conference. The Government of India is highly pleased with the work being carried on here, and has given 50 *lakhs* tax exemption for the procuring of equipment from foreign countries.” That’s what Bhagavan explained to us.

It seems that Swami spoke with a few doctors that day and He pointed to a certain doctor and asked if the others knew who he was. They said, “Yes, Swami, he is so-and-so.”

These are Swami's comments: "Our life is a big hospital. Every particle has a name and form in this body, which is outward or *pravrithi*. Every particle of the body is outward or *pravrithi*, forgetting the innate, inward nature. The true nature is inward, *nivrithi*. That is your true identity.

A scientist is one who goes by *pravrithi*, duly assisted by the government. He conducts a number of experiments in a positive direction, using facilities that have been given to him. But if the scientist is not encouraged, he turns negative and chooses a wrong path altogether." That's what Bhagavan has shared with us on that occasion.

## **NO DECLARATIONS NEEDED**

**DECEMBER 24, 2003**

I have a few more points to share with you. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, there was just one dialogue, one sentence that is highly valuable.

I made this statement: "Swami, a Chief Minister of one state said that he is going to do lots of things for that state."

Swami said, "Is that so?"

Then I said, "Swami, there is another Chief Minister who said that he is going to do so many things.

Finally Swami said, "**I don't say. Whatever I do, I don't say, I don't declare. I do, that's all. There is no declaration and there is no announcement with respect to My activities and projects.**" That's what Bhagavan said. This is a very important statement, I believe.

## **GOD KNOWS NO CASTE**

**DECEMBER 31, 2003**

It was quite interesting what Bhagavan said on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. There was a simple experience that I should tell you about.

Bhagavan was speaking about so many details that day. Then He called an elderly person and said, "Look here, there is one driver. He had an attack of chicken pox. He is very thin and weak, so please tell the canteen that they should supply his whole family with breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner until he recovers totally."

My eyes were filled with tears because of the concern and the Love that He has. Irrespective of cadre, irrespective of position, He showered His love on a driver. God knows no class and no caste.

## **CHENNAI WATER PROJECT**

## JANUARY 1, 2003

Yesterday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2003, you must have seen the old students of Sri Sathya Sai University. There were about 500 of them assembled here, who presented a music program last evening. Even students who had passed out of the portals of this Institution in the year 1969 were present yesterday, if you can imagine that!

Swami was so happy. My observation was that some of them looked so much older than Bhagavan Baba Himself! Some of them were fat and out of shape and some were even bald. But Baba looks ever young.

I was just watching Swami and His 'old boys'. That is perhaps the reason that they call them 'old boys' because they have become old. Some are allergic to this phrase, 'old boys'. How can boys be 'old'? So I often say 'former students' or 'alumni'. 'Old boys', I don't know. For that matter, no one is old; all are young. Life is young; life is youthful. There is nothing like old age. Old age is related to the mind. I was so happy to watch all those boys, who were assembled there.

You must have also heard two speakers. One was the Secretary of the Central Trust, who spoke on the Drinking Water Supply Project taking place in Chennai, once-upon-a-time called Madras, the capital of the State of Tamil Nadu. I want to share with you some of the project's details because they have been discussed this afternoon also, on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003. So, I am conveying to you the very latest information.

Just imagine, the pipeline has been laid for about 170 kilometres. There are huge canals dug out, 40 feet in width and 40 feet in depth, with the pipes running through these huge canals. There is one place called Kandeluru, a place in Andhra Pradesh belonging to Nelur District, where there is a huge reservoir being constructed at the height of 85 feet, taller than the Hanuman statue here (*referring to the Hanuman statue in the Hillview Stadium*).

Forty-five lorry-loads of cement are used per day. Some equipment has been specially brought from foreign countries like the cement mixers, which mix together the sand, gravel and cement. These cement mixers can hold 25 bags of cement at a time in addition to the sand and gravel. There is also huge equipment there used to collect all the gravel, sand and cement. This cement mixer moves to different places, collecting all that.

When this was narrated, I could not believe the massive program that is happening there. Thousands of workers are involved in this program. This work is taken up by an international organization called Larson and Toubro, L & T Company. You must have heard of it. Do you know what they said? "We have not taken up such a project before. By working here, we are learning and gaining experience."

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, a very popular newspaper from Tamil Nadu published full-page photographs and two full pages of narration regarding the details of the project, and telling of Bhagavan's compassion towards humanity. The highlights are:

- 1) No government can ever undertake such a project. No one other than Sri Sathya Sai Baba could do this.
- 2) Only Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has undertaken this selfless project, which is absolutely non-political, having no expectation, no conditions and no strings attached. This is unique in our times.
- 3) Sri Sathya Sai Baba stays in Puttaparthi at Prashanthi Nilayam, far away from Chennai. The scope of supplying water to those people is unimaginable; so for a long time, Chennai people have been suffering for want of drinking water. Though the government has undertaken many projects, they have been unsuccessful. So, it is Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who is going to supply drinking water to all the citizens of that city of Madras.
- 4) This Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project caters to the requirements of both irrigation purposes and the supply of drinking water.

These are the statements supplied by that daily newspaper and all these things were made clear to us yesterday. You, too, should come to know of that.

### **A MODEL UNIVERSITY**

A few other points I should also mention to you. A committee of experts and vice-chancellors, who are specially constituted by the University Grants Commission, Government of India, happened to visit Sri Sathya Sai University in Prashanti Nilayam.

That committee is popularly called 'NAAC Committee', meaning, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. This committee is supposed to go around the whole country and visit every department of every university and grade them, ranking them at the national level. They rank every department and grade every teacher's qualification, performance and research. If their conditions are not satisfied, the professors and readers will not be promoted. That university will be ranked low. They have certain parameters and this NAAC Committee goes around the whole of this country.

The Chairman of this Committee usually monitors all these activities from Delhi. But he came to Puttaparthi himself along with the other members, who are all vice-chancellors and professors — top experts, reputed nationally and internationally. They visited the University and they had an audience with the professors and Vice-Chancellors. They also visited hostels and they went to Bangalore and Anantapur.

What did they say? They all said unanimously that Sri Sathya Sai University is the 'Crest Jewel' of the all universities of India. Secondly, Sri Sathya Sai University is the best

university, a model university for other universities to emulate. Point three: The whole world is concerned at this time to introduce values into the educational program, which has not been totally successful until now. It has only happened in Sri Sathya Sai University, where values have been integrated with the regular curriculum and academics. Further, they also recommended that Sri Sathya Sai University should start a national academic staff college for integral education.

Even though it is not an easy thing to do, it is the achievement of the Avatar of our times. We take no credit. The appointments, the syllabus, the assessment, the equipment -- everything has been guided by Bhagavan for all these years. As God is perfection, as the Creator is perfection, so creation is perfection. Thus, the University of God is bound to be perfect, nothing less. This good news is a cause of jubilation for all Sai devotees the world over.

### **PRESIDENT ABDUL KALAM**

Further, I should also tell you three points that I forgot to mention earlier with regard to Abdul Kalam, the President of India. The President of India, after taking over as the President of this country, sent two months of his salary to Bhagavan as his contribution. The President sent his salary with a note of prayer: "Kindly accept this, Bhagavan. I am a bachelor, so I don't need this money. I don't want it." That was in his letter.

Now look at our Bhagavan. He did not take it. He did not remit it to any Central Trust Account. He gave instructions immediately that a gold medal be specially instituted in the name of Abdul Kalam, the President of India, and that a gold medal be given every year on the interest accrued on the two *lakhs* deposited in the bank.

Sathya Sai University is the only university in this country that has two gold medals instituted in the name of two past Presidents of this country. We have a gold medal in the name of Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, the former President of this country, and we are going to have yet another gold medal, instituted in the name of Dr. Abdul Kalam, the current President of India. This is all Bhagavan's will.

Kalam also made a mention in his letter to Swami, "Swami, it is only in this place that I experienced supreme Peace." He wrote in his letter to Swami and to the Vice-Chancellor also, "When I happen to come there, do not place any special seat for me. I want to squat on the ground along with other devotees. I come there in the capacity of a devotee."

You must have also noticed on the historic day of the Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai University, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, that the President of India came out of the guest house here at nine o'clock and started going everywhere — the North Indian buildings, the sheds, the auditorium. The security staff had a terrible time. He said to them, "You go, and let me go." He went on moving everywhere, and everyone along the way could say 'Sai Ram' to him.

He started responding, “Sai Ram, Sai Ram” to everybody! This is the only place and the only President who made himself accessible to the average Indian. “All are one, my dear son. Be alike to everyone” was translated into reality, into action, here at the Divine Lotus Feet of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in this place that is the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Avatar of our times.

May Bhagavan bless you. Thank you very much.

***Anil Kumar ended his talk by chanting the bhajan,***

***“Giridhara Gopala Murali Dhara.”***