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Talk Given by Prof. Anil Kumar

*“Evil Powers Take You Away From God”
and
“Imitation Is Human - Creation is God”*

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Sai Ram!

Good morning everybody!

Welcome to Saiwisdom.com

I sincerely express my thanks to the Sai Wisdom group for recording all these programs and talks so that you will be able to know the truth of various issues instead of what is being told today.

This is a kind of 'Awareness Drive'. We have to be aware of what is going on now. And we should also be aware of what Baba said on these issues. So with that intention, the Saiwisdom.com group has volunteered to record them, and make them available for your reference, so that you would have all the needed information.

Now this talk will give you some more inputs on the issue spoken about in the earlier talk of 24th October, titled: "*The Subtle Body or Sukshma Sarira Dies at Death*". In that talk, I brought your attention to what the light body is, and what the subtle body is. I also informed you about "mediums" and "communicators". How useless they are! How meaningless they are! How shameful they are! When we look at them from Baba's point of view and go through His teachings, we'll find all of them all ridiculous.

And now in this talk, I would like to cover some more aspects.

Well, today, I'm surprised to know that some are capable of imitating Him. I doubt they are artists in mimicry! Imitating Him? The dress style, the gestures and the postures? Including materialisations like lockets and watches, and bringing out the Siva lingam? All these things have been going on.

What does Baba have to say about these things? Since most of us have not been familiar with all that He has said, I thought of reminding you and bringing to your attention Swami's teachings: Baba cautioned us long ago to be aware of others imitating Him.

Besides that, there's also the false claim that Swami left His Mission incomplete. Someone says, "It is my job to complete it!" Wow, how foolish you are! Are you capable of finishing His task? Are you capable of completing that which has been left by Him? Where is the guarantee that what you are completing today will have His approval? These are the things I want to discuss with you in this talk

IMITATION IS HUMAN – CREATION IS DIVINE

Let us first think of imitation, because imitation is quite easy. We see the excellent imitations done by some artists on TV. I believe there is one man called "Reddy". He imitates political leaders and film actors. And we also have "Venu Madhav". He has a national reputation for his music as well as for imitating voices in English films, Metro Golden Voice, etc. He can mimic the voice of many national leaders, including Indra Gandhi. So I have seen these imitators, the mimicry artists. They win all the appreciation and applause from their viewers.

Baba said, "Imitation is human. Creation is Divine." **I just look at this imitation also in the same way.** You cannot blindly imitate. As a human being, it may be your weakness to imitate; but the Divine never imitates. The Divine creates. The Divine is creative. The Divine is not repetitive. The Divine creates something new.

Therefore, in this respect, **imitation is human, while creation is Divine.** Let me share a few of the views expressed by Bhagavan Baba on this topic.

IMITATING HIS VOICE, DRESS, AND BEHAVIOUR

There's one book "*Ambrosia in Shirdi*". This book is quite popular. On page 174, it's clearly mentioned that even in Shirdi Baba times, there were quite a number of devotees who imitated Him. They styled themselves as Babas. For example, in Kopargaon, one fellow started imitating Sai Baba. He's called "Kopargaon Baba". And there's another man from Bandra, and he's called "Bandra Baba". And there's another person from Nagpur who started imitating Shirdi Sai, and he's called "Nagpur Baba".

So what is happening today is not new. Even in Shirdi Baba's times, people imitated Him. But they're just human. You cannot become Divine just because you successfully imitate a Baba!

Yes, we are capable of imitating Sai Baba's voice, His dress and behaviour. I may wear His dress because I like that dress. **But the dress alone will not make me Sai Baba!** I can also speak Telugu, because it is my mother tongue. So with practice, I can speak like Him. But I cannot be Sai Baba. I may just act like Him, moving my hands as He did

or writing in the air as He did. **But I cannot be Sai Baba!** It's all only action, like we see in the cinema.

I also laugh within myself when I think of some films. There every hero will have a duplicate or double. When the hero refuses to do, or cannot do certain stunts, there's another fellow who looks exactly like him, and he'll be brought on. He's called the 'dup', and he will act in the role of the hero. **But he's not the hero!**

Similarly, there may be 'dups' in spiritual groups also, as is happening today, trying to imitate Him in dress, habits, gestures, and materialisations. **THESE PEOPLE CANNOT BE THE ORIGINAL BABA. Impossible!** Original is original. That's why even offices want us to submit original documents, not Photostat, not Xerox, no! Only the original documents. Therefore, original is original, and cannot be anything else.

Bhagavan Baba mentioned this in His talk in the month of January 14, 1973, in *Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 12, ch 2*. He said that even in Krishna's times, one person imitated Him exactly, with all His jewels and His peacock feather and all. He's called "Poundraka Vasudeva". He had the same kind of make-up, the same kind of dress like Krishna. He became an object of fun and frolic, and he was not successful in fooling anybody.

[Swami's words in *Sai Speaks, Vol. 12, January 14, 1973*: "*In the Bhaagavatham, there is mention of a certain Poundraka, who sought to become a passable 'imitation', of Krishna. He added unto his name the name of Krishna, viz., Vaasudheva. He announced himself as Poundraka Vaasudheva. He got made an imitation Conch and an imitation Wheel (out of wood) and carried them about, in his two artificial extra hands. He discovered the style which Krishna adopted while wearing his yellow silken robe and he scrupulously followed the same. He skilfully imitated the gait and gestures of Krishna. Some fools gathered round him, mistaking him to be the Lord they were seeking. His insanity finally brought about his downfall and humiliation.*"]

What I want to bring your attention to is this: No matter however well you try to imitate, **YOU'LL NEVER BE SUCCESSFUL!** You may be able to cheat people. You may be able to dup (fool) people. You may be able to take people in the wrong direction, but **you'll not be successful in the long run.** Time will prove this. As in the Poundraka Vasudeva case, you will become ridiculous toward the end, when the whole thing is known.

What did Baba say in that lecture on January 14th, 1973?

[Quote from *Sathya Sai Speaks, volume 12*: "*We have today even Sathya Sai Babas. They get the same type of robe stitched, they strain themselves to cultivate the crown of hair, they study photographs and hold their hands up very nearly like I do and make themselves ridiculous by frantic attempts to imitate Me. They forget that "Imitation is only human; but Creation is Divine."*"]

“Those who attempt to become Sathya Sai Babas by this ludicrous process of imitation only destroy whatever faith some people have placed in the Divine”.

You cannot be Sai Baba. That’s what Baba has said. So it is ridiculous to imitate Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as He himself has put it.

POISONOUS PESTS WHICH INJURE PEACE AND HARMONY IN SOCIETY

All right, I may say, when someone is imitating Sai Baba, why should I be bothered? So what? But we should know what is happening. By this false imitation, by this dramatisation, by this false make-up, what happens?

Baba gives the answer: **THEY’RE DESTROYING THE VERY FAITH THAT WE HAVE PLACED IN THE DIVINE.** That’s what Baba has to say. **THE GREATEST OR WORST OF THE CRIMES IS TO DESTROY THE FAITH IN GOD.** These imitators are destroying the faith in Swami, as Baba himself said in the references I gave to you in this talk.

“...by this ludicrous process of imitation only destroy whatever faith some people have placed in the Divine.”

And do you know how Swami compared them, the imitators? **POISONOUS PESTS . . . P - E - S - T - S . . . POISONOUS PESTS WHICH INJURE PEACE AND HARMONY IN SOCIETY.** These imitators injure the whole Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization (SSS/SSSIO) “They’re like pests, and we have got to be very careful.” That’s what Bhagavan said.

“They are poisonous pests which injure the peace and harmony of society.”

Some people may come and say, “There are many people around such imitators.” Arre! So what! What does it matter? Do you know what Baba said about these imitators?

Swami said, “Birds of the same feathers flock together.”

“They collect around themselves insects of like nature. For only birds of the same feather can flock together.”

And **“An imitator will have the following of the third-rate devotees, of the same quality as the imitator.”** Why do they do it? They want to collect people around them for selfish interests. That’s what Swami said in His talks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO IMITATORS?

And then, what will happen to those people who imitate Him? What will happen to those people who are misdirecting His followers? Swami said, **“Yes, they’re pretenders. THEY FALL INTO RUIN!”** Nobody can put it more powerfully than Swami himself.

“These pretenders fall into ruin themselves and bring ruin on the society where they operate.” So the people around the imitator are going to be put to ruin, and the imitator himself will be put to ruin.

“These 'pretenders' fall into ruin themselves and bring ruin on the society where they operate, as the proverbial horde of monkeys that ruin themselves and bring ruin on the forest which they inhabit.”

Are you prepared for that? Swami said harm will be done to society, and you will be facing harm in return for what you are doing. This is a caution to all imitators, and a caution to all those people that blindly follow these imitators!

REAL DEVOTEES WILL NEVER ANNOUNCE SUCH ABSURD CLAIMS

Please note this point! Swami said it on April 1st 1974, *Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol 12, ch 33*:

“REAL DEVOTEES WILL NEVER ANNOUNCE SUCH ABSURD CLAIMS OR LISTEN TO SUCH CLAIMS MADE BY OTHERS!”

“Real devotees will never announce such absurd claims or listen to such claims made by others. A true devotee will be steadfast in faith, whatever the ups and downs of worldly fortune.”

This applies to all Sai devotees. A real devotee will never announce, “I’m Sai Baba.” A real devotee will never imitate Sai Baba. And real devotees will not follow such people! So Swami said, **“Question yourself if you are real devotees or not,** so that you’ll never run after such pretenders, these people who act like Him.”

And then, Swami also said, “Some people say that they have special blessings from Swami.” It’s in the same talk of April 1, 1974.

They claim they have special blessings...they’re blessed MORE! I don’t know what parameters they have? Two kilogram's of blessings extra? Or one litre of blessings extra? Or two degrees of extra blessings? Can you measure blessings? And how foolish it is to say: “I have more blessings; I’m blessed more than you.”

Arre, arre, arre, arre! This is fooling people, the innocent people, people who are not aware, who do not have certain basic spiritual awareness. In those cases, it may be quite easy to manipulate or confuse such people.

And some people also say, “Baba authorized me to go around among devotees because He has given me some special powers. And He authorized me to collect funds and donations.”

Baba himself said it long, long back: Some people will claim themselves as special devotees as if they got extra blessings, as if He authorized their self-claimed importance.

"Also, people claiming association with Me, claiming that I have blessed them more plentifully than others, and authorised them to go about among the bhakthas (devotees) and gain importance by collecting funds or donations! Real devotees will never announce such absurd claims or listen to such claims made by others."

What is all this? These things will happen, that's what Baba said. Let us be cautious. It is for THIS PURPOSE these talks are arranged so that the confused people will come to know the reality, and will guard themselves against such misguidance.

THE REAL POWER IS THE DIVINITY WITHIN US

Some people say that, "You know that Baba gave me powers." Are powers to be gifted like that?

YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR DIVINE POWER LIES WITHIN YOU, not the other powers that you speak about. **THE REAL POWER IS THE DIVINITY WITHIN US. AS BABA'S DEVOTEES, KNOW THAT YOU YOURSELF, EVERY ONE OF US HERE, ARE POWERFUL WITH THE DIVINITY WITHIN.**

[Quote from Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai - Introduction. Sathya Sai Central Trust: "I am God. And you too are God. The only difference between you and Me is that while I am aware of it, you are completely unaware."]

We're carried away by the outer, simple, powers these people exhibit, and even by their propaganda and publicity. Baba said it clearly, "You should not be led away by such statements like 'Baba gave me all authority to collect funds'." So don't be carried away by such statements!

And then they also say, "Baba wanted me to go round to different places (as His authorized representative)." Swami said, "I'll never ask anybody to do that. You have no control over your own mind, so how are you going to control the minds of others? Don't have such ideas." That's what Swami said.

Then Swami said clearly . . . please note my dear brothers and sisters. Please note this point. **"We must be able to follow one thought, one path. One thought, one path."** That's what He said clearly. There cannot be a second path; there cannot be two other paths, impossible! Just let us examine ourselves to what extent we are following His teachings? To what extent we are aware of His teachings? That's very important.

ACTING AND IMITATING IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY

And then Swami also said, “Some people imitate Me while putting on a play”. You know, here in Kulwant Hall or in Sai Ramesh Hall, they present cultural programs. One youngish boy plays the role of Sai Baba. He’ll wear the same as Swami’s dress, the same hair and all that, and move his hand as Swami moved His. The audience laughs and claps. Sometimes, Swami had photographs taken with those children.

These people who dress like Him, who walk like Him, whose gestures are imitations, are for **ENTERTAINMENT ONLY! Not for enlightenment!**

So Baba’s personality, His grandeur, originality, creativity, **that** is Divine; while these false imitations are for entertainment, to entertain you.

In movies, there are many successful actors who play the role of Krishna. N.T. Rama Rao, who served as the Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh, also played the role of Krishna. Many people thought, “What a wonderful performance! Excellent acting!” He was awarded the Padma Shri (*Padma Shri is the fourth highest civilian award in the Republic of India*) and he was awarded an honorary doctorate also.

Many people say, “We have not seen Krishna until Rama Rao played the role! That was enough (to make Krishna come alive)!” Such a successful actor! All people know how well he can act. But however successful he may be, yet he’s N. T. Rama Rao; he cannot be Krishna! You cannot be Krishna!

People like your performance. They appreciate you. They give you titles like “*Padma Shri*” and “*Padma Bhushan*”, plus doctorate degrees, yes! For your talent, for dramatic skills, for articulation, and for dialogue, you’re given such awards, rewards and recognition. BUT you cannot be Krishna! Impossible! You won only due to your entertainment value.

DON'T BELIEVE IN MESMERISM MASQUERADING AS GODS

Similarly, some people may act like Baba, but they cannot be Baba. Impossible! It’s only successful imitation. What does Baba say?

Swami’s talks are contained in certain books given to students every summer during special courses in Indian Culture and Spirituality, which is for students every year. And they’re all published under the title “*Summer Showers in Brindavan*”. This talk was given in 1974. What did He say in Part 1, page 14?

“Merely imitating what you see in the world around you is purely human and there’s no Divine aspect in it at all.” There’s no Divine aspect at all! All imitations that you see in the world, they’re purely human. That’s what He said in the Summer Course reference I brought to your attention.

And then another is this: the dress. If I wear Swami’s robes, it’s a fancy dress, only to amuse you, only to make you laugh and enjoy. Swami said clearly: **“Don’t believe in**

mesmerism masquerading as gods! They may have similar fancy dress, dressing like Me; but don't be carried away."

EVIL FORCES

Swami spoke to a lady, and those words are in a book "*Sri Sathya Sai Anandadayi*", page 292, where she said that Swami told her: **"Don't believe in mesmerism, don't believe in mediums. Don't try to learn it. Don't try to learn how to mesmerise people. Don't try to learn how to imitate people. And don't practice it. It is evil."** That's what Baba said.

Further, this is an eye-opener to all of us. I want to draw your special attention to this. Why are some people successful in imitating Him? How? How are they able to materialise objects? How are they able to speak like Baba? How? Why are people attracted?

The answers are given by Baba: **"What you see in them is just evil spirits. Evil spirits possessed those fellows. And these evil spirits make them act like that, draw like that, mesmerise people. It is all the effects of the evil spirits."** The same thing I'm telling you in Baba's words. It's not my saying; Baba said it. **"Those people are successful in cheating and duping you because they have the power of the evil spirits."** That's what He said.

Well then, Swami explained what these evil spirits are: Man is seven steps below God, while evil spirits are six steps below God. So six steps, evil spirits; seven steps, man. Evil spirits are one step above us. Therefore, they're stronger, they're more powerful. And these evil spirits will possess those imitators, and make them behave and imitate like that. That's what Baba said.

Swami said, **"Evil spirits will have slightly greater strength."** Yes, because they're one step above me, above man. So, they have some more strength. Please note this:

"With this extra strength, they have the power to masquerade, or the means to imitate Him successfully, masquerading themselves as gods. They're able to look like that and they're able to pretend like that, because of the effect of evil spirits."

That's what Swami said clearly. Please understand this.

EVIL SPIRITS DAMAGE YOUR FAITH

AND DRAW YOU AWAY FROM THE SPIRITUAL PATH

And further, *Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol.10, ch 35, November 22nd, 1970*: In the discourse, He said this: "What is the effect?" Alright, so-and-so is possessed by evil spirits - they're dramatising, they're acting, so what! What is the harm?

Here Baba says: **“Evil forces are designed to damage or eliminate the faith and devotion. The people possessed by these evil spirits will damage your faith, will damage your devotion. Be careful!”** That’s what Swami said.

“And because of the evil spirits, they’ll be able to draw your attention. They’ll be able to attract you by devious means.” Swami’s wording is excellent! “By devious means!” Devious means something suspicious, dubious or fishy. So they attract people by these devious means because they are possessed by evil spirits. That’s what Swami said.

And then what do they do? What do they do? What’s the harm? What is the ultimate result? **“THEY DRAW AWAY ASPIRANTS FROM THE SPIRITUAL PATH.”** That’s what is happening today! **Some of the devotees are drawn away from the spiritual path because of persons possessed by evil spirits.**

I know for sure there’re three to four people who have been imitating Baba, who have been drawing huge crowds, taking away poor innocent devotees from the spiritual path. And where do they take you? **“They take you to the worldly path, the worldly path of avarice and malice.”** When you’re on the worldly path, it’s full of avarice and malice, that’s all, full of hatred. That is what you get ultimately. That’s what Swami has said.

So my friends, so far I have explained what mesmerism is, the possession by evil spirits masquerading as gods, imitation as fanciful entertainment, and the damage that could be done to all of us if we don’t discriminate. Kindly, just listen to me, as said by Baba.

These are Swami’s words from <http://www.sssbpt.info/ssspeaks/volume10/sss10-35.pdf>

*“Evil forces try to draw away aspirants Even those who cry in pure agonising yearning, Sai Sai Sai, and lead pure unselfish virtuous lives, even these find it hard to realise Me; how then can these low scheming vulgar men who know no saadhana, sincerity, truth and humility, how can these people claim that they have been blessed by me? They may wear the same style of dress, imitate gestures and style of speech but these will only bring their falsehood into greater prominence. That I am supposed to “possess” such people or speak through them or shower My Grace on them is an assumption of which one ought to be ashamed! How then can anyone believe it, I wonder. **Evil forces which design to damage or diminish the faith and devotion of the simple and the sincere do emerge into action and try to attract attention by devious means. They try to draw away aspirants from the spiritual path into worldly paths of avarice and malice. There is a big chasm of difference between the Sai Shakthi (Sai Power) and these inferior shakthis. Since the opportunity has now offered itself, this has to be said.”***