

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

"Sai Pearls of Wisdom"
Part One

Talk Given on October 7th, 2002

OM...OM...OM...
Sai Ram to Everybody!

Pearls of Wisdom Are of Immense Benefit

Bhagavan speaks to the students and staff in the evenings every day after completing the regular interview sessions. Bhagavan is so gracious that He spends an hour, sometimes one and a half hours, with students and teachers there in Sai Kulwant Hall, where we can see Bhagavan sitting in His chair surrounded by students and teachers.

But, it is not possible for all the devotees to hear what Swami says because there is no public address system. It is informal or casual conversation. But during the conversation, there are certain 'pearls of wisdom' and these 'pearls of wisdom' can be of immense benefit to all Sai devotees.

The Telugu edition of *Sanathana Sarathi* has been publishing all of Bhagavan's informal talks with students and teachers for the last 27 issues. That's two years and three months. I thought it was also necessary for the English-speaking devotees to know what Swami says to the students. So I collected the talks date-wise and gave them some headings.

I'm so glad that all of you have arranged and planned to see that all these talks are conveyed to Sai devotees in different languages. May Baba bless you! I'm sure that Sai devotees from all over the world will be immensely thankful and grateful to you as these talks are not available to general devotees.

These are all the points collected from His conversations with students and teachers; hence, they are most precious and valuable. We must start sharing these "Sai Pearls of Wisdom" with devotees. It is our responsibility and sacred duty, not only for the present but also for the benefit of posterity. May Bhagavan bless you in this endeavour. I am also sure that this line of activity will be encouraged to proceed further and further in the years to come. Your suggestions and comments for improvement are most welcome. Thank you. Sai Ram!

"I'm Born with This"

October 5th, 2002

Well, to get things updated is very difficult (will take some time). As I said, I have been doing this in Telugu for the last 27 months, or even a little more; so here I will begin and go in the reverse order.

This happened on the 5th of October. Bhagavan granted an interview to a group of foreigners. He came out of the interview room gently, slowly, majestically, with a smiling face, adjusting His Hair with one Hand. He walked toward us and standing in front of us, looked straight into my eyes. He said, "Did you notice those foreigners?" I said, "No, Swami."

"He's the Ambassador from Soviet Russia. He came along with two of his secretaries and a stenographer. I spoke with them. I spent a long time."

They were very much surprised there in the interview. They asked, "Swami, how do You know these things? You've told us so many intimate things, so many things that are not known to many people. How do You know? It's also amazing that You speak our Russian language! How do You know it?"

And Bhagavan said, "These things are not learnt, these things are not taught. I'm born with this."

My friends, this 'punch line' we can take as one of the Sai Pearls of Wisdom. The Avatar is born with these capacities and with these abilities -- the omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent nature. They are not cultivated; they are not learned; they are not practiced. He is born with it. Swami made this comment and everybody was very much surprised.

Conscious, Conscience, Consciousness

October 1st, 2002

This happened on the 1st of October. As I said, I'm proceeding in the reverse order. This has something of general importance. Swami was talking with the Ph.D. boys. We have six students working on their Doctoral program in the Department of Management, and Swami was talking to them.

Suddenly He asked one boy, "What is 'conscious'?"

The boy said, "I don't know."

"*Hmm!* You are a Ph.D. boy. Don't you know what 'conscious' is?"

"Well, I don't know, Swami."

"*Hmm!*"

He asked another professor, "What is 'conscience'?"

"Swami, conscience is inner voice."

"No, no, you are wrong!"

Then He asked another senior boy, a Ph.D. student, "What is 'consciousness'?"

"Swami, I don't know."

Swami said, "Look here, 'conscious' is mind. Conscious is our mind. It is the mind that thinks. It is the mind that feels. It is the mind that reacts, responds, pulsates, and vibrates. So 'conscious' means mind."

Then Bhagavan went on to say, "'Conscience' is the intellect. Why? Conscience is very close to the spirit, very close to the soul, very close to the *Atma*. Spirit, soul or *Atma* are one and the same. So, intellect is very close to *Atma*. This intellect is symbolized, conveyed or expressed by this word 'conscience'."

Then Bhagavan said, "Then, what is 'consciousness'? 'Consciousness' is the soul, the *Atma*, which is all-pervading, which is encased within the body, yet present everywhere. It is within the body and yet also present everywhere. How? Air is present within a balloon. Air is present within a bicycle tire. Air is present within a car tire. Yet also, air is present all around. Similarly, the spirit or *Atma* is present within everybody and is also present everywhere."

So these three words indicate three levels of awareness, three levels of consciousness, three levels of experience, three levels of comprehension, three levels of understanding, which we reach along the path of intensive *sadhana* or spiritual pursuit. We should not stop at a particular level. 'Conscious' being the mind -- if we stop at the level of the mind, we are only emotional; we are only passionate; we are bestial; we are more animal-minded.

If we stop at the level of the 'conscience' or intellect, we are rather intelligent, self-introspective, self-evaluating, and self-assessing. In other words, we stop at the level of self-inquiry. We should not discontinue. We should still proceed further to reach the state of 'consciousness', the ultimate, the reality, the *Atma*, the soul or the spirit, the real Self, the cosmic Self, which is the 'Universal Self', as Bhagavan put it.

And Bhagavan said laughingly, "Today you boys want to understand these things. But the modern boys don't understand. They only know misunderstanding. They have no idea of understanding."

"There Is No Inert Matter"

And then I put a question to Swami, "Bhagavan?"

“Yes?”

Here I want to inform you, my friends -- when there is enough time, when Swami is in a very good mood, we can ask any number of questions without hiding, without reservation.

Well, I thought of asking this question: “Bhagavan, what is the difference between inert matter and consciousness, *Atma* or energy?”

Bhagavan just turned to me and said, “*Hmm*, there is no inert matter.”

“Swami, if there’s no inert matter, what is all this? This is inert. What is this floor? Inert. What are the walls? Inert. Body - inert. But the spirit is active. The spirit is consciousness; the spirit is awareness; the spirit is energy. Yet You say that there is no matter, there is no inert matter?”

Swami said, “No! There is no matter at all.”

“Is it true Swami? How?”

Bhagavan said, “Only energy is present. Energy gets transformed into matter. Matter can be transformed back into energy. Energy and matter are one and the same. They are reversible processes. Matter becomes energy and energy becomes matter. Moreover, matter is composed of atoms and molecules that consist of electrons, protons, and neutrons that revolve with full energy. So how do you call it ‘inert’? When electrons, neutrons and micro-particles move with terrific energy, how do you call it ‘inert’? So there is nothing like inert matter. Everything is Divine. That Divine you can call ‘cosmic energy’ or ‘consciousness’.”

This was a matter of revelation to all of us.

And then He said, “Look here, Anil Kumar! What you say is proof of present-day confusion. Our boys represent misunderstanding, while you exhibit confusion. (*Laughter*) And today modern education is nothing but confusion and misunderstanding.”

Well, I was rather happy because to be corrected by Bhagavan, to be commented upon by the *Avatar* is a privilege. It is a type of blessing. If I'm an instrument to receive information and spread the message to everybody, then I love to be corrected; I love to be chided; I welcome admonishment. So I liked it and everybody joined in peals of laughter that evening.

Kidney Stones

Immediately Swami got up from His chair and was about to move towards the *bhajan* hall, but He stopped.

“*Hmm*, come here,” He said, “You must look at that.” I got up and went over to Him.

He asked one man, “Bring that bag.”

One boy brought a polythene bag. He asked me, “What is in that bag?”

“Swami, I see some stones.”

“What stones?”

“Swami, stones of this size -- big size.”

“*Hmm*. What are they?”

“Swami, I don’t know!”

“They are the stones which were recovered from the kidneys of our student! A student was operated upon recently and those heavy stones were removed from his kidneys.” I was shocked. “Swami, so big!”

“Yes, you have seen there.” I was watching all the time there.

And suddenly Swami said, “Doctor Bhat,” with His sweet melodious voice. There came Doctor Bhat, an 83-year-old man, a well-built, hefty personality. He’s called the ‘Father of Nephrology’, which means he’s an expert in kidney science. He served in Philomena Hospital in Bangalore. He also served as professor in the Department of Nephrology at Vellore Christian Medical College. He’s a very top man.

“Anil Kumar, do you know him?”

“Swami, I know Doctor Bhat, who’s an old devotee of Bhagavan. I see, Swami.”

“He did the operation only this morning.”

“Swami, an 83-year-old doctor?”

“Yes! Those who are with Swami are never old. (*Laughter*) They are ever-young.”

Oh, everybody laughed. And then He said, “Bhat, you did the operation?”

“Yes, Swami!”

Then Swami looked at me and said, “You see, at this old age he’s doing such tremendous work in our hospital – a very good devotee.

Then with folded hands, Doctor Bhat said, "Swami, there is an American doll that goes on playing. How does it play? When you wind the key on that doll, it goes on playing. I'm only a doll in Your hands, Swami. You are the key and the key man behind this dancing doll!"

Immediately I caught hold of both of his hands and said, "Sir, you are Baba's gift to Sai devotees and a person of inspiration to all of us."

This I thought worth sharing with you all.

"I Don't Want These Comforts and Conveniences"

September 30th, 2002

Well, this happened on the 30th of September this year, 2002. Well, we think that Bhagavan has so many cars, and we also think that Swami has so many comforts and conveniences. That's what we think, what we see and what we say.

But this is the remark of Bhagavan: "Anil Kumar, look here. I'm never comfortable with these conveniences. I don't want these comforts and conveniences. Devotees force Me to accept these things, so what can I do? They go on crying and crying until these things are brought here. Do you see? They also put a lift for Me there inside. I want to walk, but what to do? I like to walk, but they brought a lift there. I don't want these conveniences."

My friends, because we are human, we think that God also needs comforts and conveniences. As human beings, we may want conveniences. With this feeling, we think God also wants them. But here Bhagavan clearly said, "I don't want them. I feel very comfortable just being average and normal." That's what He said.

"Where Do You Come From?"

And that evening, there was a joke. The primary school boys spoke to Swami -- so nice to watch.

To a little boy Swami asked, "Boy, where do you come from?"

That boy said immediately, "Swami, I come from You, Swami!"

"Oh."

Then He will turn to the big boys and say, "See? He says, 'From You, Swami,' whereas you fellows say, 'From Bombay or from Chennai.' *Ch!* See those boys!"

And then He'll ask another little boy, "How old are you?"

"Swami, eight years."

“How do you know?”

“My mother told me, Swami.”

“Correct answer. Hey, where are you fellows? How old are you?”

“Twenty years.”

“How do you know?”

“Date on birth certificate.”

“Chi!” (Laughter)

See, what nice answers given by the little boys!

As a result, the big boys wanted to copy them so that Swami would appreciate them too.

Then He asked one big boy (I mean a postgraduate student), “Hey, where do you come from?” Swami asked this question in Telugu.

That boy said, “I come from You, Swami,” imitating the primary school boy.

Swami immediately said, “Oh, from Me? Then you must know Telugu! If you are from Me, why don’t you know Telugu?”

Because that fellow could not give an answer, Swami said again, “Where do you come from?”

He could not answer.

“Why don’t you give an answer?”

“Uh, I don’t know.”

“You said, ‘From Me’, so then you must know Telugu!” (Laughter)

So, it was a big joke. But at the same time, it was a hint that we should never imitate; we should never copy.

Long ago Bhagavan said, “Imitation is human. Creation is Divine.”

We are basically Divine. We don’t have to imitate. When we imitate, we lose our originality; we lose our nature; we lose our identity. So let us be creative by being original. This is a lesson for everybody.

"Do You Have Faith?"

September 29th, 2002

This happened on the 29th of September. One boy suddenly came up to Swami with folded hands and said, "Swami, please touch me here."

"Why?" Swami said, "Why?"

"Swami, there's a swelling here, I'm suffering from mumps. It's very painful. Please touch here."

"Why should I touch? Go to the hospital."

"No, no, Swami! If You touch, it will be cured."

"Do you have faith in that?"

"Swami, I have 100% faith."

"Oh, I see."

Swami just touched gently on that swollen part. Believe me, by the end of *bhajans*, there was no pain at all. The whole swelling subsided right there! That was a miracle. The touch of Bhagavan is a guaranteed cure -- a total cure. That's what all of us witnessed that pleasant evening.

"Never Lose the Confidence of Others"

September 28th, 2002

This happened on the 28th of September, 2002. Swami was talking to some accountant and He was just asking him, "What are you doing?"

He said, "I am doing this...I'm doing that."

Swami was not happy with one thing he did. He asked him, "Why did you do that?" And He was asking, "Why did you do that and that?"

And that accountant said, "Swami we made some adjustments. We made some changes for our convenience."

Please note this message, which applies to everybody. "By looking to your conveniences, you may lose the confidence of others. Others have confidence in you. If you go by *your* conveniences, you lose their confidence. So in life, confidence is more important. You should never lose the confidence of others. By simply taking care of the conveniences, well, you'll never do well in life." That's what Swami said.

"Everyone Should Do Seva Wholeheartedly"

Then Bhagavan asked one boy to speak. You might have heard him. You might have seen the boy standing there talking to the other boys. I'm talking about the 28th of September -- the details of that boy's speech. He spoke on *seva*. He said that everybody should do *seva* wholeheartedly. And then he quoted Swami's poem where this is mentioned: "More than all worship, meditation or pilgrimages, service is most important." And then he mentioned a few of his experiences:

Some time ago, Swami used to serve food to all the poor people. This is called *Narayana Seva*. It seems one time when Swami had started serving food; He stopped at one spot, noticing a lady who was carrying a little, small child in her arms.

Swami stopped there and called to one *Seva Dal* boy. "We are serving food to these people; how about that child?"

That *Seva Dal* had no reply. "Swami, what should I do?"

"Bring a glass of milk for this child."

So the *Seva Dal* boy went all the way to bring one tumbler of milk.

Swami went on moving around the lines, serving food. From a long distance, He stopped and shouted, "Did you give milk to that child?"

That boy said, "Yes, Swami."

Swami said, "Nothing doing!"

Swami went all the way back to that lady and touched the glass. "It is very, very hot. How do you expect the child to drink the milk? No, bring another glass."

He started cooling the milk -- pouring it this way and that, pouring it from one glass into the other. He made it cool and offered the milk to the child and only then left.

This shows the personal care He takes and the spirit that He wants us to maintain while doing *seva*. *Seva* or service is not a routine; it is not mechanical, no! It is not a schedule. We have to do it wholeheartedly.

"He Was With Us in Bosnia"

And then, the student went on to mention another thing that had happened in Bosnia. Bosnia, as all of you know, was the starved country that went through a period of drought where many people fell sick. Well, it was in a horrible, terrible, pitiable condition. Most of you must have heard of Bosnia. And then Sai workers, *Seva Dal* went to that place, Bosnia. They started distributing bread and blankets to everybody and they also distributed Baba's photos to the Bosnian people.

One person came and said, "Photo?"

"Yes."

"Who is this man?"

And they said, "This man is Sathya Sai Baba."

"Sathya Sai Baba?"

"Yes."

"Why are you giving us this photo? This man was with us until yesterday. He was with us, walking among us and today you give us His photo?"

So, this shows Bhagavan is in you, with you, above you, below you, around you.

"What Quality of Food?"

And then the student in his talk also mentioned another experience. It was the time when Bhagavan visited Bombay and He gave an interview to all the ladies, the *Mahila Seva Dal*.

While talking to a few ladies He said, "What *seva* are you doing?"

"Swami, we are serving food."

"Oh! What type of quality? Is it the two-rupee or the four-rupee quality?" (*Laughter*)

There are two varieties of rice. The little bit cheaper variety is two rupees. The better variety, a little more costly, is four rupees.

The ladies said, "Swami, we are giving the two-rupees variety."

Swami said, "Look here! For you, for your children, for your husband, you get the four-rupee variety. For those poor people, you provide only the two-rupee quality. It is *not* service. If you distribute the cheap quality to those poor people, they'll fall sick. They cannot afford medical treatment. That's not right. What is best for you should also be given to the other people. Do not give that which you reject for yourselves, that which is useless or that which is condemned. That which is *best* should be given to others." That's what Swami said.

"The Receiver, the Giver and the Received Are One"

And the boy concluded his talk by making this beautiful statement: "The receiver, the giver, and the food received are one and the same. The one who receives the food, the one who gives the food and the food that is given -- all three are Divine. That is the

climax; that is the hallmark; that is the inner spirit behind service.” And Swami appreciated his talk very much.

And that boy made a mention of another statement. “Out of a population of six billion in the world, one billion are fortunate enough to know Sathya Sai Baba, to have been born as His contemporaries. And out of this, we the students are *very lucky*. And what should be our aim? To continue to deserve His benediction, to continue to live up to His expectations, to continue to practice His Divine teachings in our lives today and hereafter.”

That ends the 28th news bulletin.

“I Don’t Want Your Money - I Want Your Love”

September 27th, 2002

Well, this happened on the 27th of September, 2002. Swami suddenly came out with an envelope. Moving it like that, He said, “*Hmm*, what is in this envelope?”

“That is only an envelope, Swami. How would I know?”

He opened that envelope. “Count, calculate and tell Me.”

I’m very poor in mathematics, so I went on counting.

“You’re a big professor, but you don’t know! Numbers also you don’t know!”

As I did not want to get it wrong since the boys were there (they may laugh), so with double care I said, “Swami, two crores of rupees. It is a check presented by the Italians to Swami for two crores of rupees.”

Swami said, “I don’t want this. I want your love, not your money. I want your love.”

Immediately He called one Italian by name -- I don’t remember the name. That man came and sat on the veranda. You might have seen him there; but of course, you have probably forgotten.

“*Hmm*, what is that check?”

“Two crores, Swami.”

“I don’t want it. Take it back. I don’t want your money. I want you. I want your love.”

My friends, it is amazing. It is unbelievable. It happens only with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, nobody else! There are so many *gurus* all over the world who are money-minded. Here is the ‘*Guru of gurus*’, the ‘Teacher of teachers’, the *Avatar*, who doesn’t care two hoots for your money. After all, why? *God is wealth. Wealth is God*. A beggar should ask for money; man may ask for money; but God need *not* ask for money

because God is wealth and wealth is God. He's the very personification of all plenty and prosperity. Why should He ask anybody?

This is a lesson to everybody. You cannot buy Him. Your fabulous amounts will never influence Him. He doesn't expect any money from us. He just wants us to be His children. He wants our love, nothing else. This is very, very surprising.

"That Little Boy Played the Role of Sathya Sai Baba"

It seems this Italian was given an interview along with his wife. And there in the interview room was also another boy. That boy acted in a television serial entitled "Shirdi Sai Parthi Sai". The little boy played the role of Sathya Sai Baba. Swami called the boy and introduced him to everybody there in the interview room.

Baba was telling us that at the end of the interview, the wife of this Italian gentleman was speaking to her husband. What did she say?

"Look here, why can't we adopt this boy? Why don't you go back first to Italy? I'll stay here for some more time with this boy and come back."

Bhagavan said, "The love for Swami was so deep that, because this boy played the role of Sathya Sai Baba, they felt like taking him to Italy, thereby feeling that they were taking Sathya Sai Baba back with them. That is the love and the intensity of devotion of that Italian couple." That's what Bhagavan has said.

Two Wives

Then Swami was speaking about a gentleman who had two wives. Of course, the first wife was no more and somehow he was managing with the second. Now, Swami started joking, "You know, he has two wives."

"Oh Swami, two wives?"

Then Swami said, "No, no, no, no! First wife is no longer there. She passed away."

"Oh, Swami."

Then Swami said, "What will happen to a fellow with two wives?"

Then I said, "Swami, man is struggling hard, breathless with one wife, almost suffocating! With two wives, the deadline is already given -- he's finished! Only his date of expiry must be given! I don't know how any fellow is managing with two wives!"

Swami laughed and then He said, "In *Puranas*, the epics, there is the story of a king by the name of Uttanapada, who had two wives. One was Suruchi; the other was Sunithi. One of these wives had a son by the name of Dhruva. The little boy wanted to sit on his father's lap, but the stepmother would not permit it.

“You cannot sit there! Get out!”

The boy said, “Mommy, I want to sit here!”

“No, get off!”

That boy left home, telling all this to his mother, “Mother, look here! My stepmother does not permit me to sit on my father’s lap. I cannot bear this suffering.”

The boy went alone to the forest and did penance for a long time. God incarnated in front of him, granted him all boons and he finally decided to remain there. He is there today, in the form of a star (known as the Pole Star) by the name of Dhruva. ‘Dhruva’ is the name of the star we find there in the sky right now.

And Bhagavan said, “Because of two wives, the father could not give love to both of his sons. When one son was enjoying his love, the other son started crying. Because the other son started receiving the father’s love, the stepmother -- the second wife of the king -- started fighting. This is fate, you know.”

Three Wives

And then He said, “Anil Kumar, do you know the name of the king who had three wives?”

Shall I say, “I know”? Then He will say, “So, you are collecting the names of the people with a number of wives!” (*Laughter*) If I say, “I do not know”, He may say, “Don’t you know that much?”

Then Swami immediately said, “Yes, he’s Dasaratha, the father of Rama. Dasaratha had three wives: Kausalya, Sumitra, and Kaikeyi. Because of the youngest wife, Kaikeyi, Dasaratha had to suffer pain due to pangs of separation from Rama. Rama had to be sent into the exile because of boons granted to Kaikeyi. You know this story. Ultimately, the separation led to the death of Dasaratha. So, the king of *three* wives had to suffer separation from his son, and ultimately had to even face death.” That’s what Bhagavan has said.

Ten Wives = The Ten Senses and Husband = Mind

And finally, that is not the ‘be-all and end-all’! It doesn’t end with the narration or description of a story. Bhagavan is a good storyteller, sharing a message -- a universal message -- behind every story. He said, “Look here! All of you, every one of you here has *ten* wives!” (*Laughter*)

“Hey, Swami! With two wives that king suffered; with three wives that king *died*! With ten wives, how can we manage?”

Then Swami said, "The ten wives are your senses. There are five senses of action and five senses of perception. Five + five = ten senses. You have ten wives!"

"Oh! OK, Swami. Am I going to live or die? With ten wives -- my ten senses -- am I going to live? Who is the husband here managing with these ten wives?"

Swami said, "Your mind is the master. Your mind is the husband of these ten senses. So if your mind -- the husband, the master -- has total control over the senses, he'll have a happy peaceful married life. But if your mind or husband becomes a slave to his wives, the ten senses, he has to dance to their tunes, and he'll ultimately become insane.

So the lesson here is that the mind should be the master of the senses. "Master the mind and be a mastermind" is the punch line, the message, of that afternoon's conversation with Bhagavan.

"You Should Get 100%"

Swami asked one little boy, "How many points did you get?"

That boy said, "Swami, I got 85%."

"How about the other 15 points? You should have gotten 100 points. You cannot say, '85.' What about the other 15?"

Then Swami said, "You committed 15 mistakes. Feel sorry for the mistakes. Don't say, 'I got 85% correct,' when there were also 15 incorrect because the end of culture is perfection. So you should get 100%, not less than that."

"What Is Society?"

September 25th, 2002

And then on the 25th of September 2002, we were quite lucky to have many, many spiritual points mentioned in the conversation with Swami. As usual, after completing the interviews, He sat there staring at everybody, collecting letters from all boys. Oh! They all made a beeline, giving letters one after another. The kind, merciful Bhagavan received letters from almost everybody and then sat there. Then He started conversing with us.

He said, "What is society?"

Society in Sanskrit is *samaja*. Bhagavan had put this question to me, "What is *samaja*, society?"

I said, "Swami, a group of individuals."

Bhagavan said, "No!"

I'm always prepared for that kind of answer or reply from Swami. I prefer to give even wrong answers because then we can get *more* information from Him. It is also sometimes a spiritual strategy or religious manipulation or human managerial technique. (*Laughter*) So I said, "Group of individuals."

"No, no!" Swami said, "The very meaning of that word '*samaja*' is 'equality'. '*Sama*' means 'equal or equality'. '*Ja*' means 'born out of'. So '*samaja*' means 'born out of equality', that which is equal-minded, that which is equanimous, where there is equality. How can you say, 'A group of individuals'?"

Then I said, "Swami, then what is the difference between the individual and society?" Bhagavan said, "The individual is always selfish. The individual always has self-interests. The individual always aims at esteem, name, fame, and popularity. So, the individual is different. The individual is self-centred."

"Oh.. Swami, then society?"

"No, society thinks of creation. Society thinks of creation, which is a larger dimension." "Oh! Then Swami, creation thinks of what?"

Bhagavan said, "Creation thinks of the Creator. So, the individual leads to the community; that community or society thinks of creation; and creation thinks of the Creator."

"Bhagavan, ah! Swami. What a scientific explanation it is!"

Then Swami used four important technical Sanskrit terms, which will be of some interest to you. The first word is *vyeshti* (also known as *vyashti*), which means 'individual'. The second word is *samashti*, which means 'community'. Third word is *srishti* or 'creation'. And the fourth word is Parameshti, which means 'Creator or God'. Swami used these four words -- *vyeshti*, *samashti*, *srishti*, and Parameshti. Now how did He establish a connection or a sequence between these four levels?

Bhagavan said, "*Vyeshti*, the individual, is self-centred, while *samashti* or society always aims at equality, *samatwa*. By practicing *samatwa* (equality), the *samashti* (community) always thinks of *srishti* (creation). And this creation (*srishti*) wants to experience Parameshti (the Creator). So one leads to the other in a perfect sequential, preferential order."

"How to Establish Equality in Society?"

"Swami, what an explanation that is! I have a simple question, Swami, if You permit me."

"*Hmm.*"

“Swami, when the individual is self-centred, how is equality established in the community? How is equality in society established? When the individual is self-centred, is it possible?” That was my question.

Then Bhagavan said, “Equality is not a political slogan. Equality does not mean ‘similar’. It does not mean ‘identical’. What is to be united here? Not ideological unity, not political unity, no, no, no! What is unity? All our hearts should be united. All our hearts should be unified. So, only the unification of our hearts, only the harmony of our hearts confers or grants unity. That is *samatwa*, equality. Nothing else.”

Today my friends, we don’t have an ideal society anywhere in the world because our hearts are not yet unified. Our hearts are not functioning in perfect harmony. So we are disunited. That’s what Bhagavan has said.

“Swami, how do we bring about harmony in our hearts? How do we establish unity? How?”

Bhagavan said, “It’s very easy.”

“Swami, is it very easy?”

“Yes, why not?”

Then Swami said, “Look here: You love your wife. You love your children. You love your friends. You love your relatives. Are you not linked with so many people? Aren’t you connected with many different people? Yes, you are connected with different people. You are in perfect union with other people by the bond of love. And if this love is further expanded, if this love is further and further broadened, our hearts can easily be united. Our hearts can be unified; our hearts can function in perfect harmony.”

“I Know Everybody ” September 22nd, 2002

This happened on the 22nd of September. Swami sat relaxed on the veranda, watching the crowd of devotees, waving His Hand and giving them a blessing, then exchanging smiles with students.

He called one boy, “Come here.” That boy is a student of the MBA class -- the Master of Business Management. He hails from Hyderabad, the capitol city of the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. Swami called him.

“*Hmm*, MBA boy?”

He said, “Yes, Swami. I am MBA.”

“You are from Hyderabad?”

“Yes, Swami. I'm from Hyderabad.”

Then He looked at us and said, “You know, before joining the MBA program, he had been visiting here for five years. He prayed and prayed to Swami that he could get admission into our University. So now you see him here.”

“Oh, Swami is that so?”

“Yes.”

And then He said, looking at the boys, “Boys, you think that I don't talk to you. You think that I don't know you. But, I know everybody. I may not talk to you, but I know everybody. I know everything about everybody; I don't have to talk to you. Look here, I knew about this boy. Isn't that enough proof that I know you also? Isn't it enough? I know everybody.”

And then He said, “*Hmm*, five days back your friends from Hyderabad came here, true?” He said, “Yes Swami, it is.”

“*Hmm*, you spent some time with them also.”

“Yes, Swami.”

“They spoke to you.”

“Yes, Swami.”

“Where am I? I am everywhere. What did they talk to you about? What did they tell you?”

“Swami, everything was OK.”

“No, no, no. Shall I tell you?”

“Nothing exceptional, Swami.”

“Oh, no. Didn't they ask you why Swami wasn't talking to you? Didn't they inquire what Swami was saying to the students every day?”

“Swami, yes.”

“Then why don't you tell Me? I know. Why don't you tell what I know?”

Then Swami said, “Shall I tell you who came to see you? One fellow's brother is sick. How is he now?”

“Swami, he’s aright.”

“Why don’t you tell me? One fellow is searching for a job. Oh, he’ll be getting appointment orders tomorrow, did he tell you?”

“Yes, Swami, he told me.”

“Then why don’t you tell Me?” Swami started telling us about all his friends, their problems, the purpose of their visit and the details about their conversations.

I tell you, we started sweating! *(Laughter)* Oh, God! If He starts talking about each of us -- well, we’ll probably feel like running away! *(Laughter)* All those things -- certain things -- are better left undisclosed! So what is to be done?

“Moral Education In One Month?”

And then He asked the same boy, “Hey boy, you have got a youth wing of Sathya Sai Organization in Hyderabad.”

“Yes, Swami.”

“Your friends belong to that Youth Wing.”

“Yes, Swami.”

“*Hmm*, what are they doing now?”

That boy said, “Swami, they go to hospitals. They visit jails also. They visit homes for the aged, and they go to schools and teach moral education to boys.”

“Very good. How long?”

“One month, Swami.”

“Oh-ho! They teach moral education in just one month? Oh, very great! These boys, though they are here for a number of years, have not received this teaching. Can you give all moral education in one month?”

“I’m sorry, Swami.”

“No, no, no!”

Then He asked, “What do you mean by ‘moral education’?”

That boy said, “Swami, what is good, and what is bad are taught under Moral Education.”

“Oh-ho! Then what is good and what is bad?”

“Swami, in other words, right and wrong?”

“Oh-ho! Then what is right and what is wrong?”

Swami went on like this until a fellow is undone -- until he lifts both his hands like this meaning, ‘Please leave me alone, Swami!’

Then, “Oh-ho!”

Then the boy said, “Morality.”

“Oh-ho. What is ‘morality’?”

“Swami, please, I don’t know.”

Neethi, Reethi. Khaythi and Jaathi

Then Swami started to tell us the answer! Here again Swami used four important technical Sanskrit terms, which are interesting.

(As an aside, I want to say that I could start sharing the other things that Swami said like, “What did you eat for lunch.” That’s fine for the boys. But for us at this grown-up age -- as young adults, if you want to call us (*Laughter*), we need to hear certain things that carry some message, don’t you think?)

What are the four words that He used? One word was *neethi*. The second word was *reethi*. The third word was *khaythi* and the fourth was *jaathi*. *Neethi, reethi, khaythi, and jaathi* -- These four words He used, and then started to explain them. All four words come under the subject of ‘moral education’.

Swami said, “*Neethi* means ‘truth – truth and nothing but truth’. Second, *reethi* means ‘the practice of truth, adherence to truth’. Following the path of truth is *reethi*. Third, *khaythi* – outwardly, *khaythi* may have the meaning of ‘name and fame’. But, no -- *khaythi* is *thyaaga* or ‘sacrifice’. And the fourth word, *jaathi*, means ‘the human race’.” So, *jaathi* -- we belong to the human race, which is called *Manava jaathi*. We deserve to be members of the human race if we have *khaythi*, which is *thyaaga* or sacrifice. And this sacrifice or *thyaaga*, called *khaythi*, is possible if we follow the path of truth, *reethi*. We’ll be able to follow the path of truth, *reethi*, if we know what truth is, *neethi*.

In other words, if truth, *neethi*, is understood, it can be followed by *reethi* or the right procedure. That leads to *thyaaga* or sacrifice, which is *khaythi*. That brings the ultimate reputation of name and fame for all of us, making us fit to be called *jaathi*, or the human race. Am I clear? That’s what Bhagavan explained that pleasant afternoon.

“God Is Your True Friend”

Then in a lighter vein, He asked that boy, “Do you have friends?”

That boy answered, “Swami, I have a few friends.”

“Few friends? No, no!”

He asked another boy, “How many friends have you?” Before that boy gave his reply, Swami said, “You have many friends, I know.”

Then He said. “Who is your true friend?”

They were just thinking.

Bhagavan said, “God is your true friend. God is your only friend.”

Then Swami gave a beautiful definition to this word ‘friend’. In English we say, “A friend in need is a friend indeed. “

That’s what Bhagavan said. “Who is a true friend? The one who will always be in your company, who will never betray you, who will never cheat you, who will never give you up in times of difficulties, in times of sickness, in times of danger -- *He’s* only your *true* friend. Do you have any friend on earth like that, who will never leave you, who will be with you always, supporting you in times of difficulties and sickness? He’s God. So treat God as your true friend. He’ll be always with you.”

‘Hrudayam’

And Bhagavan gave the definition of another word in Sanskrit, *hrudayam*. ‘Heart’ is the meaning in English. But ‘heart’ is a simple, translated version of this Sanskrit word, *hrudayam*. It actually means something different. The heart is physical and *hrudayam* is spiritual. A heart transplant can be done but not a transplantation of *hrudayam*. The heart is present towards the left side of the human body, about the size of the fist. But the spiritual heart is present all over. The physical heart functions at the level of the body, while the *hrudayam* is beyond the body. It functions beyond the body, beyond the senses. That’s what Bhagavan said.

“How Did They Address You?”

Then Bhagavan started telling us a few of His stories from His story, from His biography, from His own life. He started telling us about His grandfather. You all know the name of Bhagavan’s grandfather. He’s Kondamaraju.

Bhagavan started telling us, “Look here, Kondamaraju, the grandfather of this Body, was a most respected man in the village. Everybody consulted him to settle their family disputes or family quarrels because Kondamaraju lead such an ideal life. No man of vices or bad habits ever faced him or dared to stand in front of him. They all avoided him. They used to come to the back door. They had no guts to stand in front of him because he was a man of ethics, of high standards of morality.”

Then I asked, “Swami, how did he address You? Did Your grandfather call You by the name of ‘Sathya Sai Baba’?”

Then Swami said, “No, no, no! He always called Me ‘Sathya’, meaning Truth.”

“Swami, what did Your mother call You?”

“Sometimes she called Me ‘Raja’, ‘Raja’. ‘Raja’ means ‘king’. And sometimes she called Me by name, ‘Sathya’. ‘Sathya’ or ‘Raja’ -- these are the two names by which I was called when I was young.” That’s what Bhagavan said.

Villagers Lived in Cooperation

Swami said, “Look here, Anil Kumar. You know the villages in those days.”

“Swami, I'm from a city, I don't know village life.”

Bhagavan said, “Look here, village life is really ideal. Why? Villagers lived in cooperation. Villagers lived in friendship. Villagers always helped each other.”

“Oh, Swami!”

“You know, we didn't have rice mills in those days. They brought the paddy, and the paddy had to be ground. There was no other way. It seems people from other areas and villages also came, helping to grind the paddy grain. Men also came. While working, they sang songs about God, “Ram, Ram, Ram, Ram, Ram.” That’s how the villagers worked together, helping each other.

“Another thing, at wedding time they didn't have to buy things. One villager would bring rice, another villager curds, another villager milk, and another villager the plantain leaves on which the food is served. That was cooperation. But that cooperation is missing today. ‘Culture’ means friendship, cooperation, and helping. That culture is not present today.” That’s what Bhagavan said.

“Come to Our House”

And then Swami started reminiscing about His past. “You know Anil Kumar, when I was in school, all the teachers used to send me small, small notes.”

So Swami has this habit of receiving letters right from His childhood! Oh, I see – a Divine habit. But human habits die hard. So Swami started receiving those small notes from His teachers while He was studying in school.

“Swami, what notes?”

“Each teacher used to write, ‘Swami, Sathya, come to our house this afternoon. We made special dishes for You.’”

“Swami, what did You do then?”

“I didn’t go to everybody’s house. I didn’t do that.”

“Then what was Your answer, Swami? You were a boy! They were teachers. How did you satisfy them? How did You please them? You had decided not to go, so what answer did You give them?”

Baba said, “I went to them and softly told them, ‘Sir, if I come, the other boys will feel very badly. How would they feel about Me? So please.’ But some houses I used to visit.”

“Oh Swami, why?”

“Because, some were very serious. They wouldn’t take food until I came. My teachers and their wives also would wait until I came. They wouldn’t take their food. So I had to go to satisfy them.”

“Swami, what did You eat there?”

“Some *pakodas*, some *vadas*. I ate only a little. Even now you know what I eat? In those days, you can imagine -- still less.”

“Oh, Swami.”

“Then I used to come home and tell my brother, ‘I finished My food.’ They were very unhappy. Why? ‘When food is cooked for You here, why do you eat there?’ They were very angry with me, Anil Kumar. What to do?”

“Swami, I can understand Your situation (*Laughter*) because when you talk to the other fellow, I’m angry. I think, ‘Why don’t You talk to me?’ So naturally people will feel sorry because they don’t all get chances to be with You. I can understand, Swami.” That’s what I said.

Then in the school, it seems they used to have meetings or school functions. All the teachers would come to Swami and say, “Swami, You only speak today!”

“Sir, I’m only studying fourth class and fifth class here. It won’t look right. You speak.”

“No, no, no! *You speak!*”

“So I had to get up and speak on all occasions.”

“Swami, what was the feeling of the teachers?”

“Oh, they used to clap and say, ‘Oh, good, good, Swami! What You said is nice.’ That’s what they used to say: ‘Swami, really great, really great!’”

Beautiful Watch with Diamonds

September 20th, 2002

This is the news from the 20th of September, 2002. Well, on that day Swami wanted our Vice-Chancellor to say a few words. The Vice-Chancellor in his brief talk mentioned two miracles.

The first is regarding a miracle for a devotee from Sweden. Swami materialized a watch for that devotee from Sweden -- a beautiful watch with diamonds. But that gentleman didn’t wear that watch the next day.

Swami said, “Why didn’t you wear it? Where is the watch?”

The gentleman smiled and kept quiet.

On the third day, Swami asked, “Where is the watch.”

“*Hmm, mmm,*” he said.

And on the fourth day, Swami again said, “Where is the watch?”

The gentleman said, “Swami, I’m sorry. I’m not wearing the watch because when I go back to Sweden the airport authorities will ask for the voucher. ‘Where is the voucher?’ I’ll be in deep trouble without it.”

“Oh, you want the voucher?” (*Laughter*)

“Swami, oh, well, I don’t know.”

“Oh I see.”

Then, by a wave of His Hand, He brought forth, He materialized the voucher and gave it to him! “Don’t worry. You won’t have any trouble there at the airport. You can show it and go.”

But this man from Sweden had a scientific mind. He read the voucher, verified the date, and saw the name of the company. He rang up that company.

“Is this watch from your company? Is it a watch that you sold? To whom did you sell it? If you have the details, please let me know.”

He got the answer. What was it? “A man wearing a red robe with thick hair purchased this watch. You may ask me how I remember because many people come to the shop and buy.” We can’t expect the shopkeeper to remember everyone’s face.

The shopkeeper said, "I remember this red-robed man because most people will buy the watch and go -- take the voucher and go. But this man came again and asked for a duplicate voucher. So I remember Him. *(Laughter)* He came to the shop again, asking for a duplicate voucher. Hence, I remember Him."

The Vice-Chancellor said, "Swami, being here, went there, purchased the watch and brought the voucher – while at the same time being here because Bhagavan is everywhere."

"I Lost the Ring"

And the Vice-Chancellor mentioned another experience: Swami visited the area of Nagaland. Swami visited the Himalayas. He visited all over the country, far and wide. Swami materialised a ring for one young man from Chitagand. That man was after all a labourer, working on the road, doing road construction work.

This man lost the ring. And he started crying and came to Puttaparthi. "Swami, I lost the ring."

"You lost the ring? Why did you lose the ring?"

"Swami I'm a labourer, working to lay the roads there. So while working, I lost the ring!"

"I see. Come on," He materialized the ring, and gave it to him, full of sand. *(Laughter)*
"This ring you lost on the road. I brought it along with the sand. Come on, take it!"

That is Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba!

"Be Positive To Be Hale and Healthy"

September 18th, 2002

Then we pass on to what happened on the 18th of September. Bhagavan asked two boys some questions. What did He ask? Who were those two boys?

Those two boys had been to the State of California in the United States of America. In California, somewhere around Los Angeles, there is a university called Loma Linda University. Swami sent these boys to take a Master's course in Hospital Management. The boys were back from that great country and they are with us.

Swami called one of the boys. You must have been watching all this that day. He asked that boy, "What is needed to be hail and healthy? You are a boy back from the United States. You received training in Health Management, in California, yes! How are we to stay hail and healthy?" That was the question put to him.

The boy said, "Swami, to be positive in life is the path, the guarantee, to be hail and healthy. Have a positive attitude -- positive thinking."

And then Swami said, "Say a few words about being positive. What do you mean by a positive attitude? Say few words."

Just like that! Swami wants everybody to be *ever ready*. He does not give you a few days' time to prepare to speak on a topic.

"There, come on! Get up!"

So, everybody should be ready, that's all. And that boy began speaking. He said, "Baba is the best example of a positive attitude because Swami's *a/ways* positive. He talks to all of us. He hopes that there will be some change in us. He thinks that there will be some transformation in our life someday. Bhagavan is always positive. We may have one or two faults, or even more; but He thinks of the positive qualities in us. So He talks to us."

And then, He's so positive. At one time when the water project was undertaken, when the water project was in full swing, He said, "I'm ready to sell Prashanti Nilayam; I'm ready to mortgage Prashanti Nilayam. I don't want anything. I want water to be supplied to the thirsty people in this area. Yes, the water is important. The water project is important, not the property."

"Will Any One of You Buy Me?"

And so, Swami said to a group of devotees around Him, "Will anyone of you buy Me? Come on! You can buy Me. I want money now."

Everybody said, "Swami, buy You? Oh Swami, we can't, we can't!"

One old lady said, "Swami, I'll buy You. Come on, I'll buy You now."

And Swami said, "You want to buy Me? Come on, pay the price and take Me."

And then that old lady said, "Swami, take my heart and come to me. I'll pay the price of my heart. Take this price of my heart and come along with me -- I'll buy You."

Then Baba said, "*Amma* (Mother), I'm yours! Take Me." That is Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

So, we can have Bhagavan in exchange for our heart – not for money. And then the boy made a mention of two stages: In one stage, we come to Bhagavan. In the higher stage, Bhagavan comes to us! That's what that boy said during the course of his speech.

"I Want to Serve You"

He also made mention of another thing. There in Kodaikanal, one old man came to Swami and said, "Swami, I want to serve You."

“What?”

“I want to serve You.”

“Who are you?”

“Swami, I'm a doctor. I want to serve You in the hospital.”

Then Swami said, “I'll certainly give you a chance.”

Mentioning this, that boy said, “When everybody is waiting for a chance to serve Swami, irrespective of their age, we boys are given the chance. We should make the best use of it.” That's what that boy said.

And then Swami said, looking at the boys, “This old man wants to serve Me, while you boys are already with Me. Understand how lucky you are, how fortunate you are! Then God will never leave you. In the midst of the tempest, in the midst of the storm, He'll hold on and He'll never drop you -- understand this.”

And then the boy said, “Most people fear God. No, no, no, no! This God, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, tells you *not* to fear God. Love God and have love for God, not fear. You can have fear of sin. You should have fear of sin and love for God.” That's what that boy said.

He Made the Children Very Happy

Previously, this boy was a student in Swami's Primary School in Ooty. As you know, newly admitted children aren't happy in a new place. So, it seems that all the young children there would gather together and cry loudly (similar to our loud *bhajan* singing) because they were homesick. Gradually as the time passed, they stopped being homesick.

And it seems that once, when they were very, very homesick and all children were crying, Swami visited His school in Ooty, where these children were studying. He distributed candies, sweets and cookies to everybody, spending that Deepavali Festival there, making all the children very, very happy. This boy started recalling those days.

“How Is Your Mother?”

After Swami heard this talk, He called another boy. “How is your mother?”

“Swami, Swami.”

“*Hmm*, I know. There is some fluid in your mother's lungs. She's not doing well.”

“Swami, some time ago she suffered from cancer. You cured her.”

“Hey! That was a long time ago. Right now there is fluid in her lungs. How is she?”

He materialized *vibhuthi*. "Send this to your mother -- send it by courier post. She'll be alright." This shows Swami's concern for everybody.

And then this student made a mention of his own experience. It seems his mother was seriously ill. He got a phone call from his father, "Son, come home. Your mother wants to see you."

This boy was doing his first year M.Sc. at that time. How could he go without Swami's permission? He was trying for a chance to convey this to Swami. He did not get it. Our God plays the 'hide-and-seek' game when we need Him most!

Then suddenly, after three days Swami said, "What do you want?"

"Swami, my..."

"Oh! You got a phone call from your father. He was asking you to come home. Don't worry. Send this *vibhuthi* to your mother. She'll be all right."

Then He said, "No, no, no, no. Go, go. Go to Bombay. See your mother and come back."

As his mother was very seriously ill, she desperately wanted to see her son.

"So you take this *vibhuthi* and go give it to your mother."

And so saying, Swami came out, walked just a few steps and said: "Go! Go!"

This boy thought he should go immediately. He left, packed his luggage and went to wait for the bus to the city. Soon a few friends came and said, "No, no, no! Swami wants you to come back now."

So he went back to where Swami was waiting. Swami said, "What happened to you?"
"Swami, You said, 'Go'."

"No, no! I wanted you to go to the interview room, not outside!" (*Laughter*)

So this fellow went inside the interview room. Then Swami said, "Oh, where are you going?"

"Swami, I must go to Bombay."

"How will you go?"

"Swami, I must catch a bus to get to the city and find a train."

“Would I send you like that? Do you think I don’t know how serious the situation is? Don’t worry. *Hmm*, come on -- take it.”

By a wave of His hand, He materialized Air India tickets (*Laughter*) with the boy’s name written on them, “Come on!”

Swami called another devotee, “Take this boy in your car and drop him at the airport.” The boy flew home. Nobody knew he was coming. He went straight home and knocked at the door. His mother, who was seriously sick, got up from bed and opened the door, “Hi son! How are you?”

That is the miracle of Sai. That’s what he said. See that? That is Bhagavan. Plus Swami gave him money and an Air India return ticket too, so that he could come back and report to school immediately.

And when he came back he said, “Swami, my mother is alright!”

“Oh-ho!”

“Thank You, Swami. You cured my mother.”

And Bhagavan said, “I did not cure her. Her faith cured her. Her prayers cured her.”

So, if you have faith and prayers, they will be answered. That’s what Bhagavan has said.

And it seems one day Swami gave this boy an egg.

“Do you eat eggs?”

“Swami, I don’t eat eggs.”

“When Swami gives, don’t you eat?”

“Swami, an egg?”

“All right, come on! Eat!”

Then Swami said, “Come on! Break it!”

When he broke it, it was candy. (*Laughter*) It was not an egg; it was candy. That’s what He did! But why?

Swami said, “I gave it to you because today is Easter festival (*Laughter*). So I gave it to you.”

Thank you very much!
May Bhagavan bless you!

*Om Asato Maa Sad Gamaya
Tamaso Maa Jyotir Gamaya
Mrtyormaa Amrtam Gamaya*

*Om Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu
Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu
Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu*

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti

*Jai Bolo Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ji Ki Jai!
Jai Bolo Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ji Ki Jai!
Jai Bolo Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ji Ki Jai!*