

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 36-B**

DON'T NEED TO CHANGE, DETACHED YET ATTACHED

Oct. 10th, 2022

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Swami is the Indweller in everyone, both animate and inanimate. The Divinity is more expressed in animate, while it is only latent in inanimate. Swami loves animals so much. When Swami speaks of His visit to East Africa in the olden days, He feels excited every time, talking about those wild animals in the jungles that He visited. He has got immense love for all this animal world.

We know of Sai Geetha, an elephant here in Prasanthi Nilayam that stayed with Swami for long; and Swami liked Sai Geetha very much. All of us know that! We also know the *Gokulashtami* celebration. Devotees from different places, whosoever that find it possible, assemble here. *Gokulashtami* is Lord Krishna's birthday and all cows from Gokulam are brought here. They are well-decorated. They are brought here by students who just dress themselves like cowherd boys. Very interesting to watch! Along with these cows, the royal elephant Sai Geetha comes behind, very highly decorated! As Sai Geetha approaches Kulwant Hall, well it is sight for gods! All devotees are very much excited to watch.

Swami goes very close to these cows and He feeds them, and goes very close to Sai Geetha and spends considerable time and offers apples. And it appears as though He speaks to Sai Geetha! He whispers into her ears. Very nice and, surprisingly enough, it's quite interesting to note how these cows, Sai Geetha look at Swami and Swami looks at them. It was full of love, full of love overflowing! That's what we find.

And now, I should bring to your attention another small story. There two dogs by name Jack and Jill that lived with Swami. Pets, pets – Jack and Jill – pet dogs! And it so happened, I mean of course before that let me tell you, these two dogs used to sleep right at the Feet of Swami every night. They were so close to Swami.

Well now, it so happened, Maharani from Mysore happened to visit Prasanthi Nilayam. In those days, as you know the transport is very poor and roads are not well laid. People find it difficult at night in particular. So having taken Swami's blessings, Maharani of Mysore was leaving this place, Prasanthi Nilayam. Swami called this Jack, the pet dog and instructed this dog to show the path, the Queen of Mysore. Well, they proceeded to some distance. Because it was so dark that night they wanted to take rest and then proceed next morning.

They stopped the car at one place and this Jack dog slept underneath the car. Next morning, the driver sat there in his seat and started the car. Most unfortunately, unknowingly, a tyre of the car ran over the leg of this dog Jack. The leg was fractured. The car left. This Jack dog went on crying and crying, dragged the body all through the sands, came all the way - ultimately came to Swami. Watching Swami, it left its body! That must have been its desire - to end its life at the Feet of Swami. Even you today, you find *Samadhis* built there in Brindavan, just by the side of Swami's building, commemorating these two dogs, Jack and Jill.

I also remember a day when a deer in Brindavan started running all the way and came to Swami's building – *Trayee Brindavan* around 12 or 12.30 in the noon. It's not the time for Swami to get down, but anyway surprisingly enough He opened the door and came out. This deer, watching this Swami, breathed its last! Watching me there, Swami said, "This has been the prayer of this deer to die at the Lotus Feet! To bless it, I have come all the way!"

This news has gone to students. They started running from the *Mandir* to have Swami's *darshan*. As they were running, Swami noticed and joked, "This is a four-legged deer while those two boys are two-legged deer! They're two-legged deer, while this four-legged deer!" And everybody laughed. And then Swami said, "This deer and those deers are very dear to Me!" That's how Swami expressed His love towards students and He often said that the student constitute the real wealth of Bhagavan Baba.

And now, I should also bring to your attention that Swami never wishes us to change our religion or presiding deity. Any time we should hold on to our own religion, hold on to our own *dharma*, and we don't need to change at all! Because Baba embodies all the gods and goddesses! All powers are contained in Him. Just as all the rivers merge into mighty ocean, the names and the prayers offered to different gods reach Bhagavan, because Baba said, "All names are Mine! All forms are Mine!"

Bhagavan is omnipotent. Bhagavan said, "When you come to Me, there is no need for you to change the worship of the name and the form you are accustomed to, because all names and forms are Mine! Your devotion reaches Me!"

Here in this context, I should bring to your attention a small anecdote. Near Mumbai, there is a place by name Ganeshpuri. There in that place, there is *Samadhi* of a Swami by name Nithyananda Swami. And his disciple by name Shraddhananda at that time was staying in Mangalore. And he happened to visit the residence of a Sai devotee

where *bhajan* was going on. At the end of the *Arathi*, this Swami Shraddhananda, the disciple of that great saintly personality Nithyananda Swami – this Shraddhananda now started shedding tears and went into the state of *Samadhi* for a long time, and it took some time for him to come back.

After coming back to his conscious state, Shraddhananda said, “Look here! My Guru Swami Nithyananda is asking me to go with Dr. Gadia for Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s *darshan*. I may tell you, Dr. Gadia is an ardent devotee of Bhagavan, hails from London. So this Shraddhananda, accompanied by Dr. Gadia, went to see Swami in Puttaparthi, and Bhagavan called both of them for an interview. And naturally as you know, there will be many others also who will be called for an interview.

Swami in His usual manner started rotating His hand to materialize *vibuthi* and Swami Shraddhananda suddenly caught hold of Swami and stopped Him by holding His wrist. All those who were present in the room were stunned. Dr. Gadia felt awkward since he had brought Shraddhananda for Baba’s *darshan*. But *Shanti-Swaroopa*, the Embodiment of Peace, Bhagavan was unmoved.

Smiling lovingly, He asked Shraddhananda, “Why did you hold My hand?”

Shraddhananda replied, “I have not come here to get chocolates or peppermints. I expect something much greater, higher!”

Then Baba smilingly asked, “Do you mind if I give chocolates and peppermints to others?”

Bhagavan then materialized *vibuthi* and gave it to all others except Swami Shraddhananda. Baba then called each one into the inner room to give them personal guidance. The last one to be called was Swami Shraddhananda. Bhagavan Baba opened the top two buttons of His robe and asked Shraddhananda to look at His chest. As he did so, he became ecstatic and with tears rolling down his cheeks exclaimed, “O Gurudev! You are here in the form of Sri Sathya Sai!”

As he looked at Bhagavan Baba’s chest, he was blessed with a vision of his *Guru*, Swami Nithyananda. Many from all over the world have had similar experiences where they have been blessed with a *darshan* of their *Ishta-devata* in Bhagavan Baba. Therefore, we don’t have to change our religion or our presiding deity or family deity.

Now, Bhagavan Baba as we know and hear from all devotees that He is omnipresent! His blessings are showered in whichever form of God one may worship. Swami showers His Grace on those devotees for He is the nourisher of the entire universe and the Supreme essence of all.

Swami’s devotees from all over the world have been blessed with His *darshan* in the form of their *Ishta-devata*, desired deity. Many of His European devotees have seen Him as Lord Jesus. Some of His old devotees have had His *darshan* in the form of

Shirdi Sai. There are some fortunate ones who have been blessed with the *darshan* of Sri Shiva Sai at the Virupaksha temple.

Here I would like to share with you a small story. There was a lady who was an ardent devotee of Swami. She would sometimes go for Swami's *darshan* after discharging the family responsibilities. Many a time, she felt that her son too should accompany her but her son had contrary feelings.

Once somehow, she convinced him to accompany her. On the way he suddenly, the son suddenly said to her. "I will not come to Puttaparthi. Instead I will go to Tirupati," and he left for Tirupati.

His mother went all by herself for Swami's *darshan*. In *darshan*, Swami came straight to her and gave her *Padanamaskar*. But she looked sad.

On seeing this Swami asked her, "Amma! Why are you unhappy?" Choked with emotion, she was unable to speak. Swami said, "Amma! Just as I am here in Puttaparthi, I am in Tirupati as well! So don't be sad. Your son is visiting Tirupati, isn't it? It means he has come to Me!" So this is the proof to say that Swami represents all gods and goddesses.

And then, it is also very important for us to note that Swami has no attachment whatsoever. When once He leaves Brindavan, He doesn't speak about it. When once He leaves Prasanthi Nilayam, He doesn't speak out, speak about it! After Dasara is over, no more discussion about it! He is totally detached.

'*Parityagi*' meaning the one who renounced - no attachment! But at the same time, He is equally attached to all – being the father, mother, brother and friend. At the age of 14 itself, Sathyanarayana Raju – Bhagavan Baba left His home and declared that He was Sai Baba. At that time, He referred to His worldly mother as '*Maya*' and renounced all worldly ties. '*Sarva Sanga Parityagi*' - the one who renounced!

One can use the word 'detached' for *sadhus* and *sanyasis*, but not for Swami as He is God and transcends the three *gunas*. The relationships of mother, father, brother, sister and friends are part and parcel of human birth. To snap these worldly ties, He ate only 3 morsels of food from His mother Eswaramma's hands just to please and appease her and said, "Now *Maya* – illusion has left Me."

Swami respectfully addressed His worldly father as '*Griham Abbai*' - *GRIHAM ABBAI* - '*Griham Abbai*' and mother as '*Griham Ammai*' – *GRIHAM AMMAI*. He also gave respect to all the elders in the family, but ultimately the essential relationship between them was one of God and devotees.

From childhood itself, little Sathya was never attracted to worldly things. The other children in the home were drawn towards food, colourful clothes and entertainment, but young Sathya was never inclined towards these things.

Swami, who transcends *gunas*, has no worldly attachments, yet like all incarnations of God, He is bound to His devotees. He is ever engaged in the spiritual upliftment of His devotees towards the Supreme goal. He declared in childhood, "I was born to serve!" and has been serving mankind ever since. He showers love on all but takes particular care of His students' holistic progress. The unconditional love that is showered by Sai Matha on these students is several times more than the love they receive from their own parents.

Thank you for your time. Meet again! Sai Ram!