

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 38-C**

**SAME DATTATREYA
Nov. 14th, 2022**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Once during Shivaratri, Bhagavan Baba had gone to Ooty. While returning from there to Bangalore, He stopped the cars at a place and asked the devotees and the students to rest for a while. Everyone sat around Swami.

He turned to one of the students and said, "You still have some doubts about Me, isn't it? Alright! You have a Polaroid camera. Take a photo and you will understand the reality!"

Swami posed for a photograph. He warned sternly that no one must come closer, or to try to touch Him. He lifted His robe slightly, pressed the big toe of His right foot and asked that student to photograph Him. In a Polaroid camera, the photograph develops instantly. So everyone was very eager to see it. On seeing it, everyone was astonished because in place of Swami, there was a picture of Lord Dattatreya, with 3 heads and 6 hands, and all the 3 faces were of Swami!

In hands, there were weapons and *Kamandalu* and *Japa Mala*. In the background, there was a cow. At the Feet, there were 4 dogs, who represent the 4 Vedas. The big toe of Swami's right foot was pressed and flowers of pale pink and lilac shade were strewn all around! Without uttering a single word, Swami revealed through the photograph, the three characteristics of Creation, Maintenance and Dissolution. All the three - Creation, Maintenance and Dissolution are present in Him, and He is one and the same God who creates, protects and dissolves the universe!

Swami also explained why He did not allow anyone to come close to Him when the photograph was being taken. He said that very powerful and effulgent waves were emitting from His body and at that time it could not have been withstood by anyone else. In the past too, there have been many such incidents.

There was a big disciple of Brahma Chaitanya Gondavalekar Maharaj from Maharashtra. He was a professor of philosophy. Once in a vision, Gondavalekar Maharaj said to his disciple, "Sri Guru Dattatreya has incarnated in Puttaparthi. I feel that you should definitely go there!"

In obedience to his Guru's advice, the professor went to Puttaparthi. Swami called him for an interview. When he entered the interview room Swami said, "Take *Padanamaskar!* You are in the Divine Abode of Dattatreya!" On hearing this, the professor was overwhelmed with joy.

Here is another incident. A family named Risbud, Risbud – RISBUD used to reside at Bangalore. The entire family were devotees of Swami. Once when a boy from the family was leaving for Swami's *darshan*, his mother Mrs. Risbud stopped him. She hurriedly went to the altar in the house and brought back an idol of Sri Dattatreya. She gave the idol to her son to get it blessed by Swami.

The boy reached Puttaparthi. When Swami called him for an interview, the first question He asked was, "Where is the idol given to you by your mother? Take it out!" The boy took the idol from his bag and gave it to Swami. Baba took it in His hands, blessed it and returned (it) to the boy.

A *Poornavatara* of Sri Dattatreya, Sri Swami Samartha Maharaj of Akkalkota had told all his devotees at the time of taking *Samadhi*, "Go to Shirdi! My brother resides there!" It meant the *Poornavatar* of Dattatreya was also present at Shirdi in the form of Sai!

In the Shirdi Sai Arathi, the composer Sri Madhav Rao Adkar describes Sai, "From the Formless Brahman, You have taken a Form and have incarnated on earth in Kali Yuga as Embodiment of Sri Dattatreya!"

We are extremely fortunate that we have been blessed with the *darshan* of the second incarnation of Sai! Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba confers liberation from ignorance, misery and death.

Bhagavan Baba says human birth is (a) very special opportunity to seek liberation from the cycle of birth and death. On no other level does this opportunity exist. This is very rare and privileged, limited only to life on earth. Every being yearns for human birth because only through human form one can realize God.

Bhagavan Baba also says the human body is an instrument to realize Divinity. To attain this, one must give up body attachment. In order to get liberation, one must surrender one's mind to God. When God catches hold of the mind, all desires end and once that happens, the mind is dissolved and man is liberated! This condition is called *Mano-laya* or *Mano-nashana*, which means the mind is annihilated and merges with its true entity.

To make us understand this, Swami gives example of Gautama Buddha. He says, "Buddha contemplated very deeply and realized that ultimately it is the mind that

obstructs the progress in the process of self realization. After this, He became *Amanaska*, which means He removed all the barriers from the mind and attained *Nirvana – Self Realization!*”

Here is a touching story of a little girl who attained liberation by the Grace of Bhagavan Baba. Many years ago, Swami was leaving to go to the banks of Chitravathi along with some devotees. A six-year old girl came there. She had noticed that Swami was walking (with) bare feet. So she had brought a pair of sandals with her. She went up to Swami and requested Him to wear the sandals. This gesture of the little girl pleased Him immensely!

He called her closer and said to her, “Ask whatever you want!” Everyone (was) taken aback on hearing her demand, for she said, “Swami! I want to merge at Your Divine Lotus Feet!”

She was told to ask for something else, but she kept on insisting on the same thing. Finally, her wish was fulfilled! She suffered from fever for just 2 days and her soul merged in Swami! This compassionate Swami fulfilled her wish and conferred liberation!

There is another story about Mr and Mrs Shankar Narayan of Kerala. Both of them had immense devotion for Swami. When Baba visited Kerala in 1959 to 60, He was pleased with their devotion and said, “Mrs. Shankara Narayan’ devotion is great!”

In 1991 she passed away quite suddenly. Her daughter who is a doctor was mourning her mother’s death and had only one question in her mind, “Where has mother gone? How is she?”

Immediately *Vibuthi* and nectar started dripping from the photographs in her mother’s Pooja room. It was as if Swami replied saying, “Don’t worry! Your mother is with Me now! Her life is fulfilled!”

When Bhagavan draws His devotees closer to Him, He removes their faults and weaknesses. This enables devotees to carry out their duties in their right manner. Can our faults remain hidden from Bhagavan Baba? Impossible! Right from His childhood, He was very particular that everyone should stay away from bad habits.

Here is a story that highlights this aspect. Swami was just 8 years old at the time. A well known person living in Puttaparthi had a bad habit of collecting friends and gossiping with them all the day long. Sathya Narayana – Baba noticed this fault and He also knew its bad effects. The person indulging in gossip himself becomes idle, (and) makes others idle too. Little Sathya found a remedy for this! He composed a song and taught it to His friends. When this group of people were sitting around and indulging in gossip, the children would go in their vicinity and sing the song.

The song conveyed to the listeners, “O elderly people! Your behavior is not ethical. If you don’t follow righteousness, your friends will hate you! They will leave you and they

may even beat you!” That’s the meaning of the song. After hearing the song, the main culprit became uneasy. But by and by, all of them grasped the truth behind it and improved their ways.

Sathya composed many similar poems and skits in which He highlighted the defects prevailing in society. One of the popular skits composed by Little Sathyam was called “*Cheppinettu Chesthara?*” which means, “Should we not behave and do the way we talk?”

Here is an interesting story from the *Shirdi Avatar*. In 1911, a young man named Vamanbhai Patel went to Shirdi for Sainath’s *darshan* and wished to become worthy of His Grace. Very lovingly, Sainath addressed him as ‘Babu’ and other devotees also started calling him by the same name. Due to his young age and growing body, Babu could not control his hunger.

Once due to uncontrollable hunger pangs, he kept eating sugar all day long out of a sack of sugar. To help him overcome this bad habit, the omniscient Sainath told him a story.

Sai said, “There was a person who was staying with Me. He was suffering from tuberculosis. One morning I woke him up very early and gave him a handful of sugar to eat and locked him up in a room. He was thirsty. So he caused a big uproar to come out of the room but according to My instruction nobody helped him! But finally, he was allowed to come out in the afternoon and was given some food. He was cured in this manner. If one feels like eating sugar, one should not eat, just a little bit!”

Babu realized this mistake and gave up his addiction for eating sugar. Once the same Babu, uncontrollably hungry, felt like eating *laddus*. So he went to an inn keeper named Vasudeo. Sainath saw him from far and shouted, “You are going there to eat, but you will die!”

But Babu ignored His warning, proceeded to the inn and ate 3 *laddus* made out of gram flour. The result was as per Sainath’ prediction, next morning, Babu suffered from severe stomach aching, ache and diarrhoea and started feeling uneasy. Finally in the afternoon, Sainath sent him a piece of sweet – ‘*Burfi*’ as *Prasad*, and his health improved.

By and by, with the help of Sainath’s loving guidance, he was able to overcome his addiction to over-eating.

Sai Ram! We will meet again!