Sai Pearls of Wisdom, Part 39-C

THE OMNISCIENT BABA Dec. 21st, 2022

Om Sri Sai Ram Prasanthi Sandesh

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Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Swami says, "I have taken birth by My own will! I chose My mother! I also proclaimed My Avatarhood Myself! I took a name and a form and came here from the unmanifest in order that man should attain Divinity!"

The present Avatar of Bhagavan Baba is the omnipresent one, who encompasses this entire universe. Yes! He has taken human form only to redeem mankind. It is the experience of innumerable devotees that whichever name and form of God they may pray to, their prayers reach Bhagavan.

Here are two examples about the unseen Divine power of Sai. One is from Shirdi Avatar and the other one from Parthi Avatar. A student by name Vamanbhai Patel went to Shirdi for Sainath *darshan*. Once, he was sitting on the steps of Dwarkamai. Sainath sent him a piece of sugar candy through someone. Moments after he ate it, he received a letter from Mumbai written by his father.

The father informed him that he had passed in the SSC Examination. He was very happy and thought of offering some sweets to Sainath. So in the evening, he went to an inn keeper, got a few *laddus*, put them in a box and brought them to Sainath. On seeing him Sainath exclaimed, "Oh! You have come here with *laddus*! But on the way, you did not bother about anybody, and now you have come here with box!"

Initially Vamanbhai did not understand the meaning of this statement. But later he remembered that while coming to Sainath, a hungry dog had been following him. Vamanbhai however did not give him a *laddu* and later offered the box to Baba. How will the Omnipresent Sai approve of this, who is concerned about the welfare of all?"

The other story is from the village of Shetfale in Sangli District. There is a lady named Mrs. Kamal Dixit from an ordinary middle class background living there. She gets

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's *darshan* daily in her house at midnight. Sometimes He plays the flute, sometimes imparts instructions and sometimes He teaches *bhajans*. This has been going on continuously for many years.

Once she kept awake all the night but Swami did not come. So Mrs. Dixit was very dejected. Next night when He came, she asked Him the reason for not coming the earlier night.

Swami said, "Of course, I had come here last night, even ate the *Naivedya* – the offering!"

Kamal Dixit was surprised. Swami answered, "Last night while you were waiting for Me, a bumble bee came into the house. It touched the tea from the tea cup and flew away. Who was it? That was Myself!"

Later by coincidence, Mrs. Sarala Joshi from Pune heard about Mrs. Kamala Dixit. Mrs. Joshi personally visited the Shetfale village and spent 8 days and nights with Mrs. Dixit. In fact, for a person like Saralati, who was used to comforts of city life, it was real penance to spend 8 days in a village, where electricity supply was erratic; and even fan was not available!

However due to her intense devotion to Swami, she stayed there very happily and published the life story of Mrs. Kamal Dixit of Shetfale village in a Hindi book titled 'Sai Charan Kamal.' Due to this, devotees from all over came to know about this remarkable phenomena. Saralati, Sarala Tai has published several books on Swami in Hindi. Due to her contribution, many people from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh came to know of Swami's life, His *leelas* and His mission.

In this way, she fulfilled her worship through literature. Yes! This is the same Sarala Tai to whom Swami has promised, "Whoever regularly recites My *Ashtothari*, the 8 names or the 108 names - *Ashtothara* three times a day, as specified by *Sanathana Dharma* – morning, afternoon and evening without fail for one year, I fulfil all his tasks!! That's what Bhagavan said.

In the 21st *sloka* of the 16th chapter of *Bhagavad Gita*, the Lord has declared, "These three gates to hell are destructive of the Self – lust, anger and greed. Therefore, one should abandon these three!"

In fact, the *Shadripus*, or the six negative qualities of the human nature pose as obstacles in the path of God realization. As long as these obstacles exist, God does not accept that person as a devotee! How will God dwell in a heart which is filled with *Shadripus? Shad* meaning six, *Ripus* means enemies! Only when we discard the negative qualities like anger, lust, desire, greed - will our mind attain peace. We will lose body consciousness, our heart will be purified and then God will take His seat in our hearts!

There are 2 incidents which narrate how Swami destroys negative traits like anger etc. in His devotees. The first incident is from Swami's childhood. One day a teacher in class realized that all students were taking down notes excepting Sathya Narayana. So he got angry and said, "Whoever is not writing may stand up!" Sathya, the present Baba, stood up.

The teacher asked, "Why are you not writing?" Innocent Sathya Narayana – Sathyam Baba, "I know everything that you are teaching! Then where is the need to write notes?"

The teacher's ego was hurt. He penalized Sathya by asking Him to stand up on the bench. Sathya obeyed the teacher, but when the class got over, the teacher got stuck to his chair and could not get up. When another teacher came there to take the next class, he understood that this had happened due to the unreasonable punishment given to Sathya. The teacher was asked to withdraw the punishment. The moment it was done, he was able to get up from the chair. His anger and ego were destroyed, and from then on, he became an ardent devotee of Swami.

The second incident is from Mumbai. Swami promised a devotee that during His next visit to Mumbai, He would come to the devotee's house and oversee the Study Circle that was held there. But when Swami arrived in Mumbai, there was no indication from Him about the visit. So the devotee asked Swami about it.

Sai said, "If I come there, everything in that area will get disrupted because the road is narrow and full of shops on either side, and if I come, a huge crowd will gather and this will inconvenience all of you!"

On hearing this, the devotee's daughter felt extremely disappointed and then she got angry too.

Next moment Swami said, "Daughter seems to be very angry!" He turned to her and said, "I will come! But do you want My presence for two hours or would you prefer to have Me there forever?"

The moment she heard this, her anger vanished and her devotion was reawakened! Who will refuse the gift of Swami's presence forever? Swami kept His word and the devotee experienced His Divine presence in the house all the time. That's what Swami is!

Then, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba wears an ochre robe and an orange '*Pitambara.*' Sanyasi also wears orange garb but there is a difference here! The Sanyasis wear orange clothes, clothes as a sign of renunciation of worldly life.

About Himself wearing an orange robe, Sri Sathya Sai says, "It is only to remove the *Kashaya*', *KASHAYA* – evil feeling and bitterness from the minds of the people (that) I wear this '*Kaashaaya*', the ochre robes!"

When Swami was a child, His grandfather, Sri Kondama, would visit the district place and get colourful pieces of apparel for all his grandchildren. On his return, all the children would rush to select their favourite colours, but Little Sathya used to prefer to be the last one to take His pick. He got more joy in His siblings' happiness!

In 1940 after the declaration of His Avatarhood, Swami started wearing a white robe right until 1946. When Kuppam family came to Puttaparthi for Navaratri celebrations in 1946, Smt. Radhamma got coloured silken robes for Swami. Swami accepted her loving offering and wore robes of different colours for the Navaratri festival. Since then, He started wearing the ochre robe.

In those days, the crowd for (seeing) Swami were thin and Swami used to tell the devotees, "Today you get to meet Me, talk to Me easily but a day will come when you will see Me from a long distance, only as an orange dot. He also mentioned this in the letter to His brother, Sri. Seshama Raju in May 1947.

Well, here is an incident from the old times which is very enlightening. Once a lady who called herself a devotee, thought that she should get an orange robe stitched for Swami. Just to fulfil her wish, Swami asked her to get Him a robe. She rushed to get it stitched and offered it to Swami. But by this time, there was a change in her attitude. Ego replaced the joyful state – "Swami asked me to get Him a robe! He will wear it!" This egoistic thought kept surfacing in her mind. In that frame of mind, she went all over Puttaparthi and started telling everyone about it.

On her return to the Mandir, she witnessed a startling scene. The robe offered by her was shredded into festoons and hung all over. As she had started speaking to others with an egoistic attitude, Swami had asked a pair of scissors to have the robe cut into festoons and put all over. The lady understood her mistake and also realized that Swami had asked her for the robe only to fulfil her wish. She fell at His Feet and asked for pardon.

Here is a sweet story with reference to Mother Eswaramma. Once Swami was at Dharmakshetra, Mumbai and was to leave for Pandharpur. Mother Eswaramma and a few devotees were with Him. Swami asked Mother Eswaramma, "Why don't all of you go and do some sightseeing in Mumbai?"

In playful anger she exclaimed, "One needs money for that, isn't it? If You give us some money, we will be able to go!"

Swami tucked on the other side seams of the robe and showing her that the robe did not have any pockets, He said.

He said, "Does this have pockets? From wherefrom can I give you the money?" On hearing the dialogue between the mother and the son, everyone burst into laughter!

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is God Incarnate and seven qualities of prosperity, glory, knowledge, non-attachment, creation, sustenance and dissolution are present in Him. Just by His Divine will, He performs many wondrous miracles.

Years ago, He was sitting on the sands of the Chitravathi with some devotees. He started drawing something with His fingers on the sands.

Someone asked, "Swami! What are You drawing?"

He smiled softly and said, "Soon a new Mandir will be constructed! Here is the plan of the Mandir. From now on, not from India alone, but thousands of devotees from all over the world will come there! Lakhs of people will come. Puttaparthi will become a very famous pilgrim center!"

Some of the people who heard it at that time had some doubts. But today, every word that Swami said has turned into reality. Swami has established temples of knowledge, the temples of healing and has provided drinking water through the water projects to thousands of people, all as a part of His glorious mission!

The Chaitanya Jyothi Museum, Poornachandra and Sai Kulwant Hall, Hill View Stadium, the beautifully carved idols, the Planetarium, the University, and are not these wondrous creations? Yes, they are really wondrous creations beyond doubt!

Bhagavan Baba has cured many devotees of serious ailments. He has given rebirth to the dead! While being at one place in His physical body, He travels to any part of the world in His subtle form to rescue His devotees from the calamities.

Let's ponder over one such wondrous deed of Swami. Once a while in Brindavan *ashram*, Swami said to one of His devotees, Dr. Gadia, "Yesterday, I had gone to Kampala, Africa, to save your parents from a car accident!" Kampala is a town in Africa and Dr. Gadia's parents who are residing there, met with a serious car accident. The car was crushed beyond repair. But both of them survived unhurt, unhurt! This became possible only due to Swami's Grace, and while doing so, Swami's physical form was at Brindavan *ashram* in Bangalore. Whatever Swami told Dr. Gadia was later confirmed by his family at Kampala.

Sai Ram! We will meet in the next session! Sai Ram!