

Sai Pearls of Wisdom, Part 40-A

**DEAR TO EVERYONE
Jan. 18th, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

God is very dear to all His devotees. The present Sri Sathya Sai Avatar is very endearing to all those who worship His name and form, but at the same time is dear to all others too! How come? The answer is provided by Swami Himself.

Swami says, "My Life is My Message!" Every word and deed of His inspires His devotees. Every action of Bhagavan Baba reflects the work He has undertaken for the temporal and spiritual welfare of all mankind.

As a child, He told Mother Eswaramma, "I have come here to serve!" and every word of this statement has been translated into action by this incarnation of God who has come down to earth only to grant deliverance to the entire world.

Bhagavan Baba has promised Mother Eswaramma that he would provide education, medical aid and drinking water to the people of Puttaparthi and the surrounding villages. As a fulfilment of that promise, huge institutions imparting quality education, Super Specialty hospitals and mammoth drinking water projects - all free of cost, have been gifted by Swami to lakhs of people. Along with His devotees, others too are reaping the benefits of all these projects. This shows that Swami is *Loka Natha* and today, His mission is spreading far and wide and is touching the life of each and every person.

Well, here is an incident which narrates how Swami is endearing to all. A few years ago, a Sai devotee was travelling by train to Puttaparthi. In the train, he started talking to his co-passengers. He realized that the person sitting next to him was also going to Puttaparthi. The devotee started talking to him about Swami with a lot of enthusiasm, but there was a cold response from the co-traveller.

He told the devotee, "I am not a Baba devotee like you! I am going there for treatment of my heart problem. That's all!" The devotee gave him all the information about the

hospital and the facilities available there. They reached Puttaparthi. The person went to the hospital and the devotee came to Prasanthi Nilayam.

After 1 year, the devotee went back to Prasanthi Nilayam for Guru Poornima. He had darshan and heard Swami's Guru Poornima discourse. As he was walking out of Sai Kulwant Hall, somebody patted him on his back. He turned around and saw an unknown person smiling at him.

As the devotee was wondering who this person was, the person said, "Don't you recognize me? Last year, we had travelled together in the railway compartment."

Oh! The devotee remembered the incident and asked, "How is your health now?"

The gentleman answered, "By Swami's Grace, I am fine! I got a new lease of life. Since today is Guru Poornima, I have come here with my family for *darshan* of the Jagath Guru in order to seek His blessings!"

Just a year ago, this person was aloof and disinterested. How did he start talking about Swami with so much of love and respect? How did this come about? It seems this person had been advised heart surgery by the city doctors. Yes! After he got himself admitted to Super Specialty Hospital in Prasanthi Nilayam, all the tests were conducted with the help of the latest state of the art medical equipment. The doctors had told him that he did not need a surgery. Instead he was advised medication, a strict diet and daily practice of *yoga*. He had been following this routine regularly for 1 year - whole year and was now in perfect health.

While he was at the Super Specialty Hospital, he heard about Swami's life, His mission and His glory. Throughout the year, he along with his family read Sai literature. Yes! And all of them became very eager to take Swami's *darshan*. So now (he) became a *pucca* devotee. And therefore he appeared here on the occasion of Guru Poornima to seek *darshan* of Sai, who is endearing to all! This is rather a common experience to many of the devotees.

All devotees love God and are devoted to Him; but who is a true devotee? The one whose devotion is accepted by God is a devotee. Bhagavan Sri Krishna says, "*Yo me bhaktah same priyah! Yo me bhaktah same priyah!* – My devotee is very dear to Me!" So, just as God is dear to His devotees, devotees are very dear to God!

Since His birth, Bhagavan Baba has been loved by one and all. The moment He was born on this earth, Eswaramma, Subbamma and Lakshamma were the first ones to have His *darshan*, and this divine babe was very endearing to them. As a small child, He was a favourite of all His – all, particularly of His older sister, and she used to fulfil all His demands.

As He grew a bit older, little Sathya became dear to all needy who came to His door to ask for food and clothes. Sathya Narayana, who with His playmates started the Pandari

Bhajana group in Puttaparthi, was popular not only among His friends but also among the villagers of Puttaparthi and the surrounding villages.

It was as if He had a magnetic pull. But after Bhagavan's Advent on earth, the one whom we may truly call a devotee was Swami's grandfather Sri Kondama Raju. He was Swami's first devotee because He realized Swami's Divinity right from His birth. He knew that this was Satyabhama's Sri Krishna - a fact alluded to by Devi Satyabhama to him, in a dream, duly manifest divine qualities of Bala Sathya. He used to call him '*Chinna Guru*' – Young *Guru*. Later, Sathya's playmates also made Him their *Guru* and the villagers used to address Him as '*Brahma Jnani*'.

Swami's glory began to spread in the nearby villages even prior to the declaration of His Avatarhood. After the proclamation, the fragrance of His glory started spreading far and wide. People from faraway places started coming to Puttaparthi for (the) fulfilment of their desires, and became devotees of their dear Bhagavan.

Swami, who is dear to all devotees, fulfils all their desires. The incident given here illustrates this. Swami was very dear to Subbamma. He had promised her that He would pour water in her mouth in her last moments. But when she left her mortal coil, He was not in Puttaparthi. Her dead body was kept for 2 days, but the effulgence on her face had not faded.

Finally, Swami reached here after two days and called out to her in a soft, sweet tone, "Subbamma, I have come!" and slowly Subbamma opened her eyes. Swami held her hand in His, gave her *Vibuthi* and poured some water in her mouth. After partaking it, she passed away peacefully.

The centenarian, Sri Kondama Raju had such one desire. He wished that His dear Bhagavan should be by his side in his last moments. When he realized that the end was drawing near, he told Eswamma, "My end is drawing near!" When Eswamma was about to give him the *Tulsi* water, he stopped her and Swami arrived there at that very moment to fulfil His grandfather's last wish.

He was about to pour the water in his mouth when Kondama Raju stopped Him and said, "Swami, please drink some water first and then give the remaining water to me!" Swami acceded to the request of this dear devotee and after partaking the *tirtha* given by Bhagavan, Sri Kondama Raju breathed his last.

Swami who is very dear to all His devotees, accepts their heartfelt prayers and grants them salvation.

On the completion of the sacred *Jnaneshwari*, Sant Jnaneshwar in his *Pasaydan*, in his *Pasaydan* – *Prasad*, requested the Lord, "May the darkness of ignorance disappear! May the world see the light of righteousness! May all the auspicious desires of all living beings be fulfilled!" That is the prayer. This prayer of Sant Jnaneshwar was accepted by

God and He incarnated on earth in Sai's form to fulfil the auspicious desires of all living beings in the world.

Swami says, "Yoga means the acquisition of something desirable and *Kshema* means the preservation of what is thus acquired!" The discipline by which you can preserve this is '*Ananya-chintana*' – exclusive meditation on the Lord! That will cleanse the mind and it will make you into a *Bhakta*.

Swami also says, "A devotee is one who talks about God, sings about God and only sees God, (and) spends all his time with God." Bhagavan Baba has incarnated on earth to fulfil the auspicious desires of His devotees and to look after their welfare. He is like the *Kalpataru*, wish-fulfilling tree to His devotees.

When little Sathya was in school, he used to put His hand inside the school bag and manifest peppermints, pencils, etc and give them to His playmates. Later from the tamarind tree on the hillside, He gave a lot of desired things to His devotees and this tree came to be known as (the) wish-fulfilling tree. This was just an instrument. The real *Kalpataru* is Bhagavan Baba, who fulfils all the desires of His devotees.

When Eswamma heard about the stories from the Shirdi incarnation, she realized that other than 3 to 4 villages near Shirdi, Sai had not visited any other place. So she asked Baba, "Swami, You are an incarnation of Shirdi Sai and He did not go anywhere beyond Shirdi! Then why do You go everywhere?" The purpose of asking this question was verily because she could not bear separation from Swami for even a few moments.

On hearing this Swami laughed and replied, "How can I not go anywhere and stay in Puttaparthi alone? Wherever My devotees are and by whichever name they may call Me, I have to visit those places in order to bless them. I have to do this! This is why I have taken birth!"

Innumerable devotees of Swami have experienced the truth of this statement of His. Whoever calls out to Him with a pure heart, He rushes there to help and save the devotee. Whether worldly or spiritual, He fulfils all the auspicious desires of all His devotees as Sant Jnaneshwar has said. Swami is verily an all-pervading paradise of fulfilment!

Sri Madhavacharya said, "Devotion is love for God! Those who accept God to be their true friend and love Him wholeheartedly are devotees."

In the sacred book *Viveka Choodamani*, it is declared, "Devotion is '*Swa-Swarupa Darshan*' - to realize one's higher self as God!" And God likes to revel and sport in the hearts of such devotees.

Lord Sri Krishna is the very best example of the God who revels and sports in the hearts of the devotees. We all know about His *Rasa-Kreedā* with Gopikas of Gokul. During *Rasa-Kreedā*, every Gopika used to feel that Sri Krishna was sporting with her alone in

spite of the fact that there were numerous Gopikas and just one Sri Krishna! This *leela* would take place and the only explanation is that the Lord used to revel and sport as the Self in the pure heart of each *Gopika*.

Once long ago, Swami was in the mood to sport with His devotees. There were a few devotees around Him. He said to them, "Who will adorn Me with a *Tulsi* garland today, which will reach right up to My Feet?"

All the devotees rushed to the garden nearby and brought *Tulsi* leaves. Each one estimated the length and started stringing the garland.

To their surprise, Swami also started stringing one. When all the *Tulsi* garlands were ready, Swami let each devotee garland Him, turn by turn but none of these garlands reached Him, reached His Feet you see!

The only garland which reached His Feet was the one made by Swami Himself! Everyone was overjoyed at this *leela*. Then Swami collected all the garlands and rolled them into balls. He asked everyone to form a circle and started throwing the ball at each one. Slowly, He increased the speed to such an extent that each one felt as if Swami was throwing the ball only at him. The bliss, the '*Hrudaya Vihari*' Swami gave all of them is quite beyond description.

Thank you for your time. We will meet later.