

**Sai Pearls of Wisdom,
Part 40-C**

BABA BESTOWS KNOWLEDGE OF THE SELF

Jan. 20th, 2023

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

Swami says, “The knowledge that comes from the intellect is gained through the combination of the senses and the mind. But the enlightening knowledge from *Atma* is absolute, real and grants liberation!”

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is our *Sadguru* and leads us all on the path to highest wisdom. He is a *Loka Guru* – *Guru* of masses and also *Vyakthi Guru* – *Guru* of individuals. So, as part of His Avataric mission, He has started a magazine called *Sanathana Sarathi*. Through this magazine, Baba guides the *sadhaks*. The devotees are able to gain insight into right knowledge through His divine discourses, which are published in this magazine.

In addition to this, when Bhagavan Baba calls devotees for interviews, He gives them instruction through various examples and short stories. He also individually guides them, solves their problems and brings about transformation in their personalities.

There is a well-known story about a naked *Sadhu* of Puttaparthi. This *Sadhu* observed silence and being lame, went around in a palanquin – *pallaki*, completely naked. At that time, around the year 1941, Swami was staying at Subbamma and Karnam’s house. When this palanquin was brought in front of their house, everyone was very curious to see Swami’s reaction.

Bhagavan very calmly came out, carrying a towel in His hand. He gave it to the *Sadhu* and told him, “Since you stay naked all the time, I assume that you have severed all your ties with society. Then why do you live in society? Why do you have disciples? If you are greedy for fame, why do you give the impression to others that you are desireless? Why?”

On hearing this, the *Sadhu* was ashamed!

Swami continued, “One who is engaged in *Namasmarana*, God will never keep him hungry. Go to some place and stay in solitude! Wherever you are, I will provide you with food and shelter!” That’s how Swami corrected that naked *Sadhu*.

Well, this had happened long ago. One day, Mother Eswaramma came to Bhagavan and said, “Swami, our small Puttaparthi village has no school. All the children have to walk many miles to get to school. I know You are an ocean of compassion! So please construct a school for these children here in Puttaparthi.”

Mother Eswaramma did not stop at this. She gave some land for the purpose which belonged to her and Swami constructed a school. *Jnana Swaroopa*, Sai thus planted a small sapling of the tree of knowledge. Slowly this sapling grew into a huge tree. A bigger school was established in Puttaparthi. A ladies college was started at Anantapur and colleges were also established at Puttaparthi, Whitefield, Jaipur and Bhopal.

By and by, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning was established on 22nd November 1981. This is one and only University which has integrated value education with academics. All this was made possible because Bhagavan Himself is wisdom personified. He personally pays attention to each detail and ensures that all those who receive academic education also benefit from value education.

Prior to this, Bhagavan Baba had established a *Veda Patashala* to teach Vedas to young children, as a part of His mission to restore Vedic knowledge. In 1965, for the first time, He conducted the *Upanayanam* ceremony of over 400 boys and initiated them into *Gayathri Mantra*. He also taught them the holy *Vedic Vakyas* – ‘*Mathru Devo Bhava*’, ‘*Pitru Devo Bhava*’ – Mother is God, Father is God.

A few years ago, Bhagavan Baba asked a devotee from Shimoga, “Do you follow *Sandhya Vandana* regularly?” *Sandhya Vandana* is chanting of *Vedic* mantra thrice a day. The devotee bent his head in shame because although he had been regular in it earlier, recently there had been a lapse on this part. Swami told him, “Doesn’t matter, there’s still time! But from now on, you must do it regularly!”

On returning home, the devotee started following *Sandhya Vandana* regularly. He also started performing *Abisheka* on the Shiva Lingam at home, formerly a regular practice which he had discontinued. In a few days, he noticed that the colour of the Shiva Lingam was now seen as *Swarna Lingam* - a Gold Lingam and he could also see Bhagavan’s image in it. In this way, Bhagavan bestowed devotion and wisdom on His devotees. May He shower His blessings on all of us! It’s not easy that a Shiva Lingam got itself transformed into *Swarna Lingam* – Golden Lingam.

In the *Varaha Purana*, one of the epics, the glory of *Bhagavad Gita* has been described by Lord Krishna, “The Gita is My Supreme *Vidya*. It is verily the form of Brahman. It is the eternal half syllable, the dot on the ‘*Aum*’, everlasting, the ineffable essence of the spirit.”

Spoken by Krishna - Consciousness and Bliss Incarnate, to Arjuna, it is the 3 Vedas, the ultimate bliss and full of knowledge of the *Tattwas* – the essentials. When Arjuna lost his courage on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, Bhagavan Sri Krishna Himself narrated *Bhagavad Gita* to motivate him.

We are extremely fortunate that Bhagavan Sai Krishna, who is the *Sanathana Sarathi*, is Himself explaining the *Bhagavad Gita* to us! On 16th February 1958, Swami started a magazine named *Sanathana Sarathi*. *Sanathana* means eternal and *Sarathi* means charioteer.

Just as Bhagavan Sri Krishna was the charioteer of Arjuna's chariot, Sai Krishna has incarnated today to establish *Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema* and *Ahimsa* in each and everyone's consciousness and is the charioteer who is guiding us from within.

Swami says, "Each one's heart is a *Dharma-Kshetra* as well as a *Kurukshetra*. It is a field where a man can redeem himself through his good *karma*. If he turns it into *Dharmakshetra*, he can cross over the ocean of life easily, easily! If it becomes *Adharma-Kshetra*, he gets destroyed."

The first *sloka* of *Bhagavad Gita* teaches the same thing, in the Kurukshetra which is *Dharma-Kshetra*. "What are the *Mamakah*? *Mamakah*, meaning mine and the *Pandavas*, the sacred white-skinned people, doing there?" That was the question put by Dhritarashtra, there in that Kurukshetra battle.

Well, '*Mamakah*,' meaning 'mine', signifies the ego, selfishness, *tamasic* and *rajasic* qualities. '*Pandava*' signifies the white-skinned people imbued with *Sattva Guna*. All beings are involved in this battle. By God's Grace, those who are stabilized in the *Sattva Guna* will achieve victory. They will always remain worthy of God's Grace. This is what the *Gita* teaches us!

This incident took place a few years ago. Well, Sri Panduranga Dixit was an ardent devotee of Swami. His daughter Jyothsna was studying for B.A with Sanskrit as her subject.

Swami asked her, "What is the essence of *Gita*?"

She gave a correct answer based on the syllables, on hearing, based on the syllables and the syllabus, as on what is contained in *Bhagavad Gita*!

On hearing it, Swami said, "All this is true but the essence of *Gita* is quite different. It is *dharma*. *Dharma* is not religion, but man's innate duty!"

Swami also says, "The first word of *Gita* is *Dharma* – 'duty' and the last word is *Mama* – 'my.' So the entire *Bhagavad Gita* teaches about 'my duty', each one's duty!"

See how wonderfully He explained the essence of *Gita*, in the simplest way ever possible!

In the *Bhagavad Gita*, the Lord has spoken about *Avyabichari Bhakti*. *Avyabichari Bhakti*, where a devotee's mind gets totally fixed on God and does not wander towards any object of the material world – the devotion is called *Avyabichari Bhakti*. To such a devotee, who has surrendered completely, God bestows *Atma Jnana*, the Knowledge of the Self.

During the Shirdi Avatar, there are a few chosen devotees whom Sainath had graced with *Atma Jnana*. Among those were Mahalsapathi, Madhavrao Deshpande or Shyama, and Smt. Lakshmibhai Khaparde.

Mahalsapathi was the priest of the Kandoba Mandir, who led the life of a *Sanyasi*. When Sai first came to Shirdi, Mahalsapathi had welcomed Him saying, “*Aavo Sai! Aavo Sai! Welcome God!*” and was the first one to be blessed with His *darshan*. First one!

It's a well known fact that the sound of 'Krishna', 'Krishna' used to emanate from the hair of the Gopikas. Madhavrao Deshpande or Shyama had achieved the same oneness with Sainath! Some devotees heard the words 'Sainath Maharaj' with every breath of his even while he was sleeping. Such was the *Sadhak* (who) was blessed by Sainath with *Atma Jnana*. Natural!

Smt. Lakshmibhai Khaparde was just a housewife. But she served Sainath selflessly and she also used to give food and shelter to poor promising students. Sainath was very pleased with her meritorious *Seva* and He gave her the *Guru Mantra*, 'Raja Ram, Raja Ram!' Besides, 10 years after His *Maha Samadhi*, He blessed Lakshmibhai with *darshan* just prior to her death.

The present Sri Sathya Sai Avatar leads His devotees towards self – realization. The names of grandfather – Kondama Raju, Smt. Subbamma, class teacher Sri. Mehaboob Khan come to mind.

But there is one more devotee who stands out - is Indira Devi. She was born Russian, worked in United States and had an Indian name. She was an excellent *yoga* teacher, Indira Devi. When Indira Devi came in contact with Swami, He increased the level of her spiritual knowledge along with *yogic* knowledge. He gave her a pearl rosary and a *mantra* for chanting.

He not only materialized *Vibuthi* for her but also manifested *Akshaya Vibuthi Paathra*, a vessel which has an unending supply of *Vibuthi* for her. And the ultimate gift of Grace was that He blessed her with a power with which she could help people facing calamities. Here is the most extraordinary example. Without doubt, she herself attained self-realization with Swami's blessings.

Thank you for your time.