

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

**SAI LEELAMRITAM
February 13, 2023**

**Om Sri Sai Ram
Prasanthi Sandesh**

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, Sai Pearls of Wisdom welcomes you.

On 23rd November 1926, in the wee hours of morning amidst the reverberating auspicious sounds of the musical instruments playing on their own, God Himself incarnated in a remote village of Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh. His radiantly beautiful face with attractive features – dusky, glowing skin and curly hair - delighted everyone. He had a mole on His left cheek as if to ward off the evil eye. This enchanting beautiful babe filled Mother Eswaramma, grandmother Lakshamma, and the neighbour Subbamma's life with bliss.

Since He was born as a blessing after the mother had partaken the Sathyanarayana *Vrata Prasad*, He was named Sathyanarayana. Everyone started calling this darling babe 'Sathya.' Like the waxing moon of the *Shukla Paksha*, the baby was growing more beautiful each day. On seeing His enchanting form, Mother Eswaramma was reminded of Bala Krishna of Gokula. As the child grew a little older, He started drawing horizontal lines of *Vibuthi* on His own forehead. He would insist that his older sister should do this for Him. Everyone was enchanted by His charming looks and ways.

When He turned six, the favourite child of grandfather Kondama Raju started taking part in plays organized by His grandfather's drama company. His unusual beauty, sweet melodious voice and dancing skill used to make the audience feel as though Sri Rama, Sri Krishna had appeared once again on earth!

Once when a program was organized to collect school funds, Sathya Narayana enacted the role of the well-known dancer Rishyendramani so perfectly that none realized this was not her performing. After Sri Sathyanarayana proclaimed His Avatarhood and declared that "I am Sai Baba!" many devotees began to throng Puttaparthi and several festivals started being celebrated there.

In the procession during Navaratri, Bhagavan Baba's form looked very beautiful and divine. Earlier during the procession of Rama Navami too, Bala Sathya's playmates used to dress Him up as Sri Rama because of His charming form and divine qualities. During Navaratri festival, Swami's form used to seem especially divine and attractive.

In 1946, the devotees decided to take Swami in a procession in a beautifully decorated palanquin and Swami acceded to their wish. At that time, the devotees saw Him on different days as the indescribable glowing Meenakshi of Madurai, Visalakshi of Kashi and Kamakshi of Kanchi. Sometimes, He was seen as Shiva-Shakti Avatar, and those who were blessed with this resplendent *darshan* were verily fortunate souls.

It has been an old tradition for devotees to sing songs and *stotras*, describing the exquisite beauty of God. From ancient days, the sages and saints have been describing the divine beauty.

In the *Rama Raksha stotram*, while describing the beauty of Prabhu Ramachandra, Budha Kaushika *Rishi* says, "One should meditate on the beautiful Sri Rama whose hands are adorned with a bow, who is seated in a lotus pose wearing a yellow silken garment, whose eyes are competing with fresh lotus petals, the One who is blissful and His eyes are set on the lotus face of Sita who is seated on His left thigh, whose skin is lustrous like the dark rain-filled clouds and who is adorned with various precious jewels and whose head is crowned with a halo of shining curling hair!" That was the description by Budha Kaushika *Rishi*. Let us meditate on this charming Sri Rama!

While describing the beautiful form of Panduranga, Sant Jnaneshwar sings, "Just like the luster emitting forth from innumerable precious gems, the effulgent glow on Panduranga's divine skin is spreading in all directions! That effulgence and His immeasurable beauty cannot be described in words."

Similarly, God's beauty has been described by a number of devotees in many ways. In the *Kakad Arathi* – early morning *Arathi* of Shirdi Sai – Sainath, it is said, "I perform Your *Kakad Arathi* early in the morning, O Sainath! Accept this *laghu seva* – small service of this child of Yours and bless me with a vision of Your *Chinmaya Roopa* – all knowing effulgent form!"

In the Sri Sathya Sai Suprabhatam it is said,

***“Deshaantaragatha-Budaasthava Divya-moorthim
Sandarshanaabhirathi-Samyutha-Chiththa-vruthyaa”***

The intellectuals from several countries have come here to seek Your *darshan*! They are yearning to see Your Divine form!"

In the Sri Sathya Sai Rama Raksha *Stotram*, Bhagavan Baba has been described as, "One should meditate on the beautiful Sri Rama, the Embodiment of Love! His face sweet with a smile, framed in the halo of His curly hair, wearing an orange silken

garment, with His eyes competing with fresh lotus petals; who is gracious, the distributor of the divine *Vibuthi* created from His hands for the benefit of the people, calm and peaceful seated on a lion throne with a raised hand bestowing boons!”

The description of this beautiful form makes the devotees experience waves of bliss, giving them the divine ambrosial Sai *darshan* within! What happens due to this beautiful *darshan*? What happens? Swami Himself has told devotees about benefits of *darshan*. When Bhagavan Baba comes to the *darshan* hall amidst *Veda* chanting, all the devotees, Baba says, should focus on His beautiful divine form with undivided attention. None should leave their places in the *darshan* grounds before He leaves for His residence or otherwise they are deprived of the divine energy that emits from Him during *darshan*.

A well-known scientist Dr. Frank Baronowski once photographed Swami with a Kirlian camera and saw that Swami was surrounded by a wide white, pink and blue aura which also had gold and silver stripes. All these colours of the aura are known to represent pure love. Dr. Baronowski was stunned to see this phenomenon as he had never seen such an aura before. Sri Sathya Sai *darshan* bathes the devotees in the rays of love, peace and bliss, and it is a soul-stirring experience for one and all.

‘*Darshanam Papa Nashanam*’ – *Darshan* of a divine being has the power to destroy all our sins. This description matches perfectly with the *darshan* of the charming form of Sri Sathya Sai which has the power to destroy our sins and bad sins.

Bhagavan Baba is the Embodiment of Purity and is always engrossed in promoting sacredness in His devotees too. Swami says, “Purity should be practiced in 3 ways – Purity in thought, Purity in speech, Purity in deeds. Once a person attains these three types of purity, he becomes worthy of My love!”

It’s possible to achieve this purity through constant *Namasmarana* and serving all beings as forms of God. Let us absorb this story which shows how Swami showers His love on those devotees who have attained purity.

Swami’s biographer Sri N Kasturi’s mother, Janakamma, was an ardent devotee of Swami. Through each action of hers, one could see that she was a recipient of God’s Grace. Swami had fully bestowed His Grace upon her.

One day Janakamma said to Baba, “Swami! In my last moments, will I receive the holy *tirtha* from your sacred lotus hands? Will I attain liberation?”

Swami said, “Yes, it will be so!”

As Janakamma end drew near, Swami was at Bangalore. But He had promised the sacred soul a boon - it had to happen so! From Swami’s photograph which was on a wall next to her bedside, *tirtha* started flowing! Janakamma partook it thrice and peacefully attained *Moksha*.

The same story is about a lady living in a city who was constantly engaged in *Namasmarana*. In accordance with Swami's teachings, she was also involved in *Seva* work. She was now advanced in age. Once while in Prasanthi Nilayam she said to Swami, "I am old now, yet I am scared of death!"

Baba replied, "Don't be scared! I will be with you in the last moment and this is My promise!"

In due time, the old lady's end neared and she passed away. Due to the promise given by Swami, the burden on her mind had been removed! But the rest of her family members were curious to know how Swami was going to fulfil His promise of being with her until the end. How was everyone to understand this? Yes! A hearse was brought to take away the dead body on its last journey. As her body was placed inside the hearse or casket, they saw a picture of Swami inside with a smiling face and the *Abhaya Hasta* raised in blessing! It was as if Swami was telling her, "I will be with you till the end!" How wonderful experience it is!

Here is a story about how Bhagavan Baba instantly grants the rewards for our good *karmas*. In 1968, Bhagavan Baba paid a visit to East Africa. At that time, a gentleman there heard about Him for the first time, but it did not occur to him to take Swami's *darshan*. Not just this, but even when his wife wanted to attend one of the programs and he went to leave her there, he came away without entering the venue.

During this time, a close friend of his told him, "Only by Swami's Grace, my diabetes was cured!" On hearing this, he had a change of heart and started getting the urge to seek Swami's *darshan*. But he was told that Bhagavan Baba was returning back to India on the very same day. He thought of going to the airport to seek *darshan* and since time was short, he got into his car and drove fast in order to reach in time. But the airport was about 40 kilometers from his house. After having driven half way, he saw a motorcade of cars coming from the opposite direction. He saw someone he knew in the group.

He stopped the person and asked him, "Are you returning from the airport?"

The person replied, "Yes! Bhagavan Baba just left for India! So we bade Him good-bye and are returning back!"

Although he was terribly disappointed on hearing this, something within urged him to go on to the airport and he drove at a faster speed. On the way, he started praying earnestly to Swami, "You came very close to my house, but I did not seek Your *darshan*. Now I have realized Your glory and I am yearning to see You! If I have performed any meritorious deed, please let me have Your *darshan*!" As the prayer ended, he reached the airport.

Before entering the premises, he bent his head down reverentially, touched the gate with his head and went inside. As he walked ahead, he saw a plane landing on the runway. The door was opened and wonder of wonders! Bhagavan Baba was standing in the doorway. He could not contain his happiness and tears of joy started rolling down his cheeks.

He said, "Bhagavan! From this very moment, my heart will have only Your image!"

How did this come about? After the flight took off, the plane developed a technical snag. So it was brought back. Within (a) few minutes, the snag was rectified and Bhagavan left. Every devotee will agree that it was only the omnipresent, omniscient Swami *leela!* Swami returned only in response to the prayers of His pure-hearted devotees, to give him *darshan* and reward him for his meritorious acts.

Swami says, "*Karma* is a seed which is bound to grow into a tree and reap its fruits. But if the seed is roasted in the fire of non-attachment, it is reminded, rather rendered fruitless and frees from the bondage of sorrow and pain. That's the meaning of all His actions and what you call the divine *leela!*"

"As I transcend the perishable, I am even higher than the imperishable! Therefore I am declared as *Purushottama*, the Supreme person in the world and in the Vedas!" This is the declaration and the narration of the Supreme person, the Divinity!

Here is a story which narrates how Sri Sai Purushottama showered His Grace on an innocent farmer. This farmer (was) named Ratandan Gandhavi. Ratandan Gandhavi lived in a village called Makwana in Gujarat. He was simple by nature and found it hard to make both ends meet. Due to the famine, all the farmers in that area including Ratandan were undergoing lot of difficulties. There was no fodder for the cattle and the conditions were really adverse. To find a way out of the situation, he decided to consult a relative of his, by name Gulabdas Barot and travelled to village called Limoti near Rajkota, to meet Gulabdas.

Gulabdas Barot was a devotee of Swami. In fact, a Sai center was established in his house and activities such as *bhajan* and *Nagarsankirtan* were conducted there regularly. On hearing Ratandan's sad story, Gulabdas suggested a remedy. He suggested that Ratandan should pray to Swami from his heart and then sprinkle *Vibuthi* all over his farm. Ratandan, once a robber, somewhere was unable to believe that Swami is God, because Swami's physical form did not match with the image of Sri Krishna that was installed in his heart.

But since he was desperate, he did as he was told. And wonder of wonders, that year there was plenty of rain and he reaped a very good harvest. Ratandan gathered up courage and travelled all the way to Puttaparthi, and in other areas to offer his gratitude to Swami!

Baba called him for an interview. In the interview, He asked Ratandan, “You have been telling everyone that a person with this type of hair cannot be my Muralidhara, Sri Krishna, isn’t it?”

Ratandan said, “Yes, Baba!”

Swami told him, “Look here!” and lo and behold, at the every moment, he saw Swami form changing into, changing into Muralidhara’s face! This kind of thing, we have not heard any time before!

With tearful eyes, Ratandan fell at Swami’s feet and said, “Baba! Please forgive me! Please grant me devotion!” to which Swami answered, “Are you giving up your business completely or not?”

Ratandan asked, “Which one?”

Then Baba said, “Tell Me the truth Were you not a dacoit looting and killing people?”

Repenting for his past deeds, Ratandan once again fell at Swami’s Feet. Baba gave him *Vibuthi* and sends some away. As Ratandan walked out of the interview room, he was a completely transformed person.

Let them not disturb others as they do their *Sadhana*. That’s very important!

I am so glad that you could make it convenient to be here to listen to ‘*Sai Leelamritam*.’ It is ambrosia of divine *leela*, which I could share with you.

Thank you! Meet again!